

Hollywood as Preschool

Corbin Billie dressed as a flower for the Hollywood Preschool graduation.

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Ahfachkee Graduation

Class of 2004 kindergarten through eighth grade.

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Brighton Graduation

Diamond Shore uses her diploma as a telescope.

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Volume XXV • Number 8

June 11, 2004



Jaime Restrepo

Big Cypress visitors and citizens alike will enjoy the U Save gas station at the Big Cypress Trading Post.

Gas Station and Convenience Store Open in BC

By Jaime Restrepo

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe's newest enterprise opened on May 17 in Big Cypress. The gas station/convenience store, called the Big Cypress Trading Post, opened with great expectations and Seminole pride.

Among the tribal officials and employees on hand for the grand opening were: Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Moses Osceola, Big Cypress Board Representative Paul Bowers, Board Executive Administrator Jim Talik, Project Managers Cheryl Bolton, who coordinated the inside operations, including hiring staff, and Danny Tommie, who planned and managed the construction.

The Big Cypress Trading Post provides much needed access to automotive fuel, including diesel, food, like milk, a wide assortment of soft drinks, bread and cold cuts, as well as non-food products, shelf items like paper towels, napkins, and automotive accessories. But most of all, the store provides convenience to the tribal community, as well as motorists passing through or just visiting the motocross track,

See TRADING POST, page 3

First Indian Baptist Academy Graduates Seminole Student



Susan Etxebarria

Pastor Wonder Johns (left) congratulates graduate Trina Bowers.

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — A memorable ceremony was conducted by the First Indian Baptist Academy in the church chapel on Thursday May 27. This ceremony celebrated Trina Bowers' high school graduation.

Bowers, from the Brighton reservation, was the one and only senior in this fairly new private Christian school. She graduated with straight A's.

Many family and friends attended the ceremony, which also included the 2003-2004 School Year Awards for all the students.

Bowers opened her inspiring farewell speech with her special 11 stanza poem in which she wrote about the lessons she has learned growing up.

"I am two small words, and yet, it's a powerful place to be. It's my life and I'm living it, I am everything you see," the poem begins.

"I am responsible for my actions, and all the things I say and do. I am responsible for my behavior and how I interact with you," Bowers continued. "I am responsible for the level of my work, and the choices I make. I am responsible for the values I profess, and for the ways that I communicate."

With her two grandmothers and grandfather present, aunts and uncles, mother and father and younger brother, Bowers also expressed her gratitude for all they have done for her.

"I wouldn't have made it this far if it wasn't for the love and support I received from my parents, family and friends," she told the audience. "My parents have taught me the rights from the wrongs, my

See BOWERS, page 20



Iretta Tiger

CHAIRMAN CYPRESS LEADS THE WAY: The Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness on the Big Cypress reservation opened to the public on Thursday May 20. For full coverage, please see the story on page 16.

Eighth Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament

By Felix DoBosz

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole gym floor was filled with nine pool tables and more than 100 tribal citizens and friends for the Eighth Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament on Friday May 21 and Saturday May 22.

Juanita Osceola created this annual Memorial Pool Tournament event as a tribute for her late daughter Candy Osceola.

"Seven years and two months ago, Candy was taken away, she left two sons, a brother and sister," said Osceola. "Her birthday was on May 18, so that's why we hold this event for the community every year at this time, to honor her memory."

Fifteen senior women and 16 senior men signed up for the senior's 8-ball contest on Friday night. Thirty-four youth boys and 19 youth girls also signed up for the youth 8-ball competition.



Felix DoBosz

Juanita Osceola (left) plays in the pool tournament she created to honor her late daughter Candy Osceola.

everyone could really enjoy eating.

Mike DeWitt, founder and owner of Bizzaro Cues had set up shop in a small corner of the gym floor as the competition went on. He sat at a table in front of his cue sticks on display, some cue sticks costing as much as \$2,000 dollars and more.

DeWitt said, "The Texas Tornado," Vivian Villarreal, David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress, and Daniel Gopher all have custom made sticks, some with tribal colors inlaid on them." He continued,

See OSCEOLA, page 12

McCall Honored at Sports Banquet

By Michael Kelly

HOLLYWOOD — Christine McCall and her softball teammates were almost late for the 24th Annual 2004 Sports Banquet at Sheridan Hills Christian School, but they had a viable excuse. The varsity softball team returned from Homestead, Fla. victorious, capturing the regional finals by defeating Princeton Christian, 13-2. Next stop, a trip to the Tampa and a chance of winning the state finals.

Everyone at the event gave the team a thunderous ovation, as this was the first Sheridan Hills athletic team to ever win a regional tournament. No one seemed to mind if the varsity softball team

arrived in their uniforms; in fact, it was only fitting to arrive in sports attire at a sports banquet.

"Awesome!" said Chet Steele, Head Master at Sheridan Hills, as he addressed the large crowd. Steele went on to mention that "this is the first time our athletic program has ever won a regional tournament...in any sport."

The purpose of the 24th Annual Sports Banquet was to honor athletes, from seventh graders to high school seniors. McCall, daughter of Wanda Bowers and her late father David McCall, earned awards for her stellar play on the basketball court and in softball.

See McCALL, page 3

Council Meeting Held in Brighton

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — On Friday May 14, the Brighton Reservation hosted their second Tribal Council meeting at the Brighton Gymnasium at 10 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mitchell Cypress and the invocation was asked by Alice Snow.

Once roll call was completed, Executive Administrator Ken Fields introduced Marsha Green as a new developer of programs and projects for the chairman's office. Green comes to the Seminole Tribe with many years of service as an attorney with other tribes.

Fields then presented routing items of administrative nature that had been previously discussed by the Tribal Council. The items included home site leases, lease extensions, home permits, easement of right of ways for Glades Electric and Sprint, and service agreements with various companies. There were 32 of these routine items which were all approved.

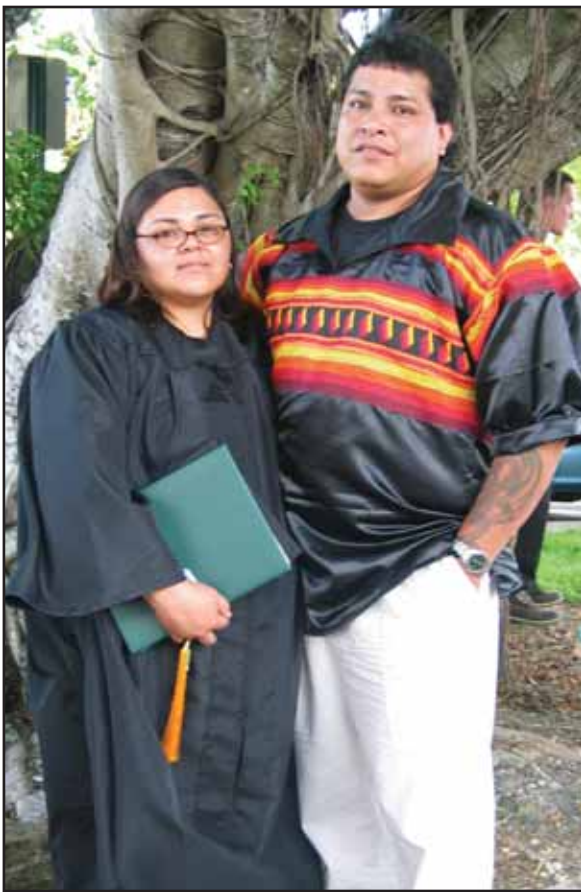
Among new items were two resolutions presented by Louise Gopher, Director of Education. The first resolution was an amendment to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Criteria Agreement for Private school scholarship program, which stated that those students attending private schools would only be allowed 12 absences, instead of the previously allowed 18.

The second was an amendment to the Seminole Tribe of Florida School registration policy which stated the tribe would no longer fund on-line school, home schooling, correspondence school, or anything of this nature. Both amendments were approved.

Among other resolutions was an approval of lease schedules 11 and 12 to the master lease agreement entered into with PDS Gaming Corporation where the Hard Rock Hotel will offer guests with on-site opportunity to charter a fishing boat for the day without needing to leave the premises. This boat will also be used as an alternative means of marketing for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Tribal Treasurer Mike Tiger presented a resolution with Ford Motor Credit Company lease-purchase agreement which will allow the tribe to purchase leased vehicles for tribal department use. The next meeting of Tribal Council will be held in June.

On a special note, at the end of the council meeting, Max Osceola asked Education Director Louise Gopher and Ken Fields to get together and present a resolution to rename the Seminole Tribe Higher Education Scholarship to Billy Cypress Higher Education Scholarship Program in his honor.



Adelsa Williams

Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders after the graduation ceremony with her husband Eric Sanders.

Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders Graduates from UM

By Adelsa Williams

MIAMI, FL — It's graduation season. At the University of Miami, the number of alumni this year grew past 134,000, an approximate count of graduates residing in all states and 148 countries.

Tribal citizen, Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders, Otter clan, from the Big Cypress reservation earned her way into the University of Miami's alumni count. She is also the proud mother of two beautiful daughters, 16-year-old Kellie and 14-year-old Demetria.

On May 14, Tigertail-Sanders marched across the arena stage, arrayed in a long pointed, open sleeve black gown, signifying that she will receive a baccalaureate, better known as bachelor's degree. She was one of 74 graduates to receive a bachelor of science in nursing.

Becoming a registered nurse has always

See SANDERS, page 20

Grand Opening of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Commemorative Issue of The Seminole Tribune



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The Seminole Tribune

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The following deadlines apply to all submissions for inclusion into the *Tribune*:

Issue: July 2, 2004
Deadline: June 18, 2004

Issue: July 23, 2004
Deadline: July 9, 2004

Issue: August 13, 2004
Deadline: July 30, 2004

Issue: September 3, 2004
Deadline: August 20, 2004

Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

Advertising:
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Hollywood, FL 33024.

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The Seminole Tribune

is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication. Subscription rate is \$30 per year by mail. Make checks payable to *The Seminole Tribune*, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024. Phone: (954) 967-3416. Fax: (954) 967-3482. Or subscribe on the Internet at www.seminoletribe.com
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Editorials

Things I Won't Do

By Dr. Dean Chavers

There are certain things I won't do. The older I get, the more I don't want to do some of them. People do too many of them without thinking. The older they get the more I think. I hope my thinking is all right. Here are some of the things I won't do:

• **Live in a gated community.** People who live in a gated community may be genuinely afraid of the world outside. Or they may think they are better than other people. I would rather not live my life in fear. I hate to tell you this, but I could walk into almost any gated community in the U. S. within a few minutes. The criminals who know the system better than I do can do it in seconds. If you think a gated community is protecting you, think again. It makes you a target.

• **Send my kids to private schools.** Despite what the Rockefeller's, the Hays, the Whitneys, the Kennedys, and other rich politicians and business leaders do, I would not send my kids to private schools if I had all the money in the world. I would rather my kids be normal, not set apart from the world. Our neighbors, Bob and Ginger Whisnant, tried to recruit all three of our kids to go to Albuquerque Academy, where the two of them taught. But none of the kids wanted to attend the Academy. The Academy is outstanding; I am not putting it down. But our kids got an excellent education at Del Norte High School. They also learned a lot about the real world. My only exception was if I had to send my kids to some of the worst Indian schools. Then, private school, here we come.

• **Ignore my kids.** Too many parents ignore their kids today. Despite being poor and busy when our kids were in school, my wife Toni and I went to their plays, their basketball games, baseball games, and other events. We went through the teenage thing with all three of them. One of them quit talking to me when she was 12, and didn't talk to me again until she was 17. Then she asked, "Daddy will you buy me a car?" Despite this, I kept trying to talk to them, and eventually they responded. The amount of child neglect in the world today is astounding. I love the new commercials with Charles Barkley and the boys. They ask "Do you know the nickname of your child's principal?" That is a valid question. We need to know what our kids are doing in school and elsewhere.

• **Teach my kids to hate.** I was taught to hate when I was a kid, but I hated hating people. I was supposed to hate Black people, and to distrust White people. I was supposed to be suspicious of almost everyone else-Jews, Asians, Mexicans, Russians, gays, Polacks, etc. But I made up my mind before I was 15 that I would not be a bigot. I have tried to teach that to my kids. Hating takes too much energy, and it is wrong. I heard my grandfather rage about racist things for years. Sometimes I thought he would have a heart attack or a hemorrhage. He never did, but he used up so much psychic energy fussing and cussing against school integration in the 1950s and 1960s. There is not enough room in this world to hate.

• **Blame other people.** This was a hard one for me. I blamed other people most of my life. If something went wrong at my house 30 years ago, it was my wife's fault or one of the kids' fault. But one day I woke up and realized I was a jerk. I have been trying to recover for 20 years now. If you are to blame, men, accept the blame. People will like you better. I don't know how women put up with us anyway.

• **Spread fear.** George Bush has done the nation no good by establishing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). It is too little, too late. It holds people up for hours in line. It insults people. It wastes time. It wastes money. And the bottom line: how many terrorists have they caught? We can spread fear in so many ways. It would be so much easier for people just to go through a metal detector just before they board the plane. Anyone with metal could be required to step aside and be searched. But even better-do away with the whole thing. With airport security in place, we had four planes hijacked on 9/11. Three of them did irreparable harm.

• **Forbid my kids to marry anyone.** Two of them have already married minorities, and the third one will be marrying an RWG (regular white guy) this June. Both the two who got married are already divorced, which is another sign of the times. They made bad decisions about husbands, but they didn't make them for racial reasons.

I firmly believe that peace in the world will only be achieved when people of all races are free to interact with people of all other races. That means they can also marry them.

• **Make my kids stay at home.** They should learn about

other cultures, not just superficially, but in depth. I love the student exchange program, and wish it could be expanded a hundred fold. Our children need to go to Africa, Asia, Europe, and the rest of the world, and work with different types of people. We are way too insulated and isolated as a nation. We ought to flood the Middle Eastern nations with people from the U. S. and let them stay a year or two. And we ought to let many more of them come to the U. S. to study and work. They would break down more barriers than we could imagine.

The biggest problem facing the U. S. now is not North Korea, or Afghanistan. It is the enormous hatred toward the U. S. by millions of Muslims. They are found in a quarter of the nations of the world, from the Philippines to Saudi Arabia. There are more than a billion of them. We need to make friends with them, or reap the whirlwind.

• **Watch gory movies.** I hate all gory movies. It is wrong to hate people; but it is all right to hate stupidity? The Slasher the Texas Chainsaw guy, Jason (whoever he is), the Steven Segal movies, the Rock's movies, the Arnold Schwarzenegger movies, all are beyond the pale.

• **Join the NRA.** If the NRA was the last organization on earth, I still would not join it. I don't believe in anything they say. They are some of the most boorish people on earth. Do you know they had a celebration meeting after the Columbine shooting in Denver, Colo.? And they held it in Denver, about 10 miles from Columbine. That is more than rubbing salt into the wound. It is unfeeling and loutish. We do not need weapons of mass destruction, such as a Glock, a BAR, or a nine millimeter, available to the public. No fully automatic weapons should be available except to the military. It is too bad they have people of limited intelligence such as Charlton Heston leading them.

• **Be cruel to poor people.** More people do this than you might imagine. Despotic landlords throw poor people out in the street all the time. Teachers call poor kids names in school. One of the worst names I hear in Indian schools is "You people." That phrase is so hateful I wish it were outlawed.

Being cruel takes many forms. It can be telling poor children they should study vocational trades instead of encouraging them to go to college. It can be denying jobs to people who are not just like us. It can be denying housing to people of a different color, which happens all the time. It can be denying college admission to people based on their race, which is still widespread. When an Ivy League opens its doors a tiny bit and lets a few of us minorities in, it is still cruel to keep most of us out.

• **Take up golf.** This is just personal. I don't like golf, but I have never played it. I already waste several hours a week bowling, and one vice is enough. I know I have reached the depths on weekends when there is nothing on TV to watch except PGA golf. Lord, help us.

• **Accept bad schools.** We have some of the worst schools in Indian Country that you can imagine. We still have schools where students are graduated who cannot read. We, all of us, need to challenge these schools. They need to get kids in school every day, get them reading, give them homework, and open lines of communication to parents. Indian parents will respond if the schools make the first move. But schools by and large are afraid of Indian parents, and will not talk to them. Come on, schools! But being negative about it seldom works. My organization actually gives grants to improve Indian schools.

• **Accept incompetence.** This is a big one. We have so much of it in Indian Country. So I am lying; I have to accept it, but I hate it. The counselor who tells an Indian student not to go to college is incompetent. The counselor who fails to help an excellent Indian student get accepted to the right college and find scholarships to pay for it is incompetent. The principals who let this type of behavior go on are incompetent. BIA people who keep Indian lands out of the hands of tribes are incompetent. BIA people who let oil drillers steal Indian people blind are incompetent. I had better stop.

• **Shut someone up.** Even if I don't like what you have to say, I fought and people died for your right to say it. If I don't like it, I can always walk away. But I will defend your right to say what you want to. Isn't that what democracy is all about?

Dr. Chavers is the director of *Catching the Dream*, formerly called the *Native American Scholarship Fund*. His e-mail address is CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com.

Letters & E-mail

6300 Stirling Road Hollywood, FL 33024 ♦ tribune@semtribe.com



Sergeant Juan Maya

Dear Seminole Tribe of Florida,

My platoon and I want to thank you for your support and your patriotism, especially in the hard times that this country is going through lately. Sometimes it's difficult to put a face on a war that's taking place halfway around the world, but I'm happy to have the opportunity to give you a little insight into the lives of a few of the soldiers here.

We arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan on March 24, and spent a week or so there, sleeping in communal tents, while we prepared to go to our smaller camp in the east. The compound in Kandahar is not at all what we expected when we pictured Afghanistan a few weeks ago. There are hundreds of military personnel here, a whole community, with a gym, a PX, a barbershop, and local Afghani vendors selling everything from DVDs to antique Russian weapons.

We were pleasantly surprised that we had access to computers and telephones and were able to call and email home to let our families know we had arrived safely. Of course, these things are in high demand, and the average wait to use them is about an hour. It was definitely worth it to be able to hear the happy voices of our wives, children and parents back home who didn't expect to hear from us for at least a month.

Since we have been here, my platoon and I have been working closely with the local civilian contractors. We are

maintaining the important relationships that help keep our camp running and in turn, put money into their economy and keep the tribal warlords in the area pacified.

It's very interesting to see the differences in our cultures. I have talked extensively to a few of the Afghani interpreters here about their marriages, relationships, and customs and shared about our American culture. They seem to be just as fascinated by us as we are by them. I hope to learn a lot more while I'm here and I think our exchanges with the Afghanis will help open minds about accepting and appreciating peoples' differences, on both sides of the fence.

I will write again soon when we are settled in our camp. Thank you again for your support. It helps to know there are folks on the home-front that, regardless of whether or not they support the war, who do support the soldiers.

Sincerely,
Sgt. Juan D. Maya
ACO. 2/27th, TF 2/28, 3 BCT
APO AE 09355-9998

All members of the AF platoon: Oswaldo Alvarez, Joseph Box, Marcus Gersten, Michael Long, Juan Maya, and Nathan Unger.

Dear Editor,

Do you offer credit line for players? If so, can you email or fax an application to me?

Nick Guarino
nguarino@comcast.net

Dear Mr. Guarino,
Sorry, but no credit is offered at Seminole casinos.

Edward Jenkins
Director of Gaming/Compliance and Regulations

Virginia,

I just want to congratulate you and your staff for an excellent work you did on the Commemorative Issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

I have had the opportunity to

share it with friends, especially educators in our local communities of Okeechobee and Moore Haven, and they all gave me raving comments about the book, without my asking or even thinking about it.

We gave it out at Brighton during the Pull Out School Open House. I haven't had a chance to read over all of it myself but these people sound like they have and I'm sure they will use it as an educational resource book.

Sincerely,
Louise Gopher

Dear *Seminole Tribune*,

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone that has helped in our time of need, including the Big Cypress board and council representatives and the chairman's office. We especially would like to thank *The Seminole Tribune* for posting the full page stories and pictures of Henry John Billie for everyone to enjoy.

Here are a few other things that people may not know of Henry John; when the new Hollywood reservation first opened up, there wasn't any kind of law enforcement, but Henry became an Broward sheriff deputy while being the manager for the Seminole Okalee Indian Village

In the early-1960s, vandals focused on the village's wildlife and began destroying property and Henry John took to patrolling the grounds at night, with a panther on a leash.

Again, thank you for the memories on film.

Sincerely,
The family of Henry John Billie

Correction

In the May 21 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*, it was incorrectly reported in the Board Meeting story, which stated approval of resolution for purchase of Lakeport Lodge, when in fact, it only approved the authorization to initiate negotiations.

Billy Cypress Honored at LaBelle Freedom Day Festival

By Nery Mejicano
LABELLE, FL — With the sound of Civil War cannons, the rumble of World War II airplanes and the ringing of the freedom bell, the late Major Billy Cypress was honored during Freedom Day, held on Saturday May 29.

His wife, Carol and other members of his family and clan, received two plaques and a wreath, and as a symbol of remembrance, were asked to ring the freedom bell.

Lester Maddox, one of the Hendry County officials, recognized Cypress not only for his service to the country, but for his dedication to the cultural heritage of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, as well as his contributions to Hendry County. Cypress served on the county's board of tourism and was respected by all who knew him. Museum directors, historians and others sought the knowledge and wisdom of Cypress, which he was most willing to share.

The Freedom Day Foundation, under the leadership of Richard Williams, decided to honor Major Billy Cypress for his unselfish dedication to his country, his leadership in ensuring that the Seminole culture is passed on to future members of the tribe, and for providing education about the history, culture and traditions of the Seminole Tribe through the wonderful Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which he directed.

This event was held on the grounds of the LaBelle Airport. Thousands of people endured the South Florida heat to honor the veterans and those presently fighting to defend our freedoms. Soldiers of all the major conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan were honored.

Gray and blue jacketed soldiers representing the Civil War marched to the beat of drums while cannon fire resonated in the vast expanse of the airfield. Dozens of planes, from vintage WWII transports to new experimental ones, flew over the crowd



Hendry County Commissioner Reverend Bill Maddox places a wreath upon the freedom bell, as members of the late Billy Cypress's family look on.

in honor of our service men and women. The field was awash in red, white and blue as hundreds of American flags were distributed. At the main stage, the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag, along with the American flag and the missing in action flag, proudly waved under a gentle breeze.

About 800 bikers from all over Florida converged in LaBelle to attend this event. Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. led a group of about 30 Seminole riders in bright red t-shirts, to honor Major Billy Cypress. The roaring sound of their engines even drowned out the sound of the airplanes.

The event concluded by honoring one of LaBelle's heroes, Lance Corporal Norman Casey Ballard, who was killed in action in Vietnam. His family received a plaque and after ringing the bell, numerous red, white and blue balloons were released to the backdrop of a bright blue sky. A lonesome yellow balloon was also released as a symbol of all those serving the country



Revolutionary War re-enactors march in the sweltering Florida sun.

Trading Post

Continued from page 1

museum or campground. For anyone who needs ice for the cooler, the Trading Post is the place to find it.

Easily accessible from anywhere in Big Cypress, the store is located next to the Herman Osceola Gym, on BIA Road 1281, AKA the Josie Billie Highway.

"This is long overdue for the community," said Moses Osceola. "With the introduction of the motocross track, this benefits all the tribal members, who are all shareholders in the operation. Any money spent here is money invested in the community. I think it's great."

The enterprise has been in planning since last June, when a resolution was passed to proceed with the store. The board, realizing that this was a good economic opportunity for the tribe, negotiated with the lease holder, Raleigh Osceola, contractors and vendors to get the building, tanks and pumps in prime running order.

Moses Osceola, having prior experience with convenience store operations, said "You can do well with them. It's a good cash flow opportunity for the tribe."

He also stated, "We are bringing more products in as we go along. We will try to provide everything that a household might need."

Cheryl Bolton, operations coordinator for the internal operations of the store, said that in the next two to three weeks, the store will also feature a



Chairman Mitchell Cypress buys a soda at the new convenience store.

restaurant with a daily menu. For now, they will start with breakfast. Lunch and early dinners will follow soon after.

"We will feature scrambled eggs, biscuits, bacon for breakfast; burgers, chicken and sandwiches for lunch; including daily specials, based upon the needs of the community," said Bolton.

She also said that outside tables will be added for dining convenience.

Store hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with later closings depending on community functions and events. Major credit cards are accepted, including tribal fleet cards.



Proud mom Wanda Bowers (left) and her daughter Christine McCall.

McCall

Continued from page 1

The six-foot-one-inch McCall can attribute her athletic ability to her mother, who was an all-star in basketball, softball, and even played intramural football in high school and college. Christine, no doubt, got her height from her father, who stood six-foot-four.

McCall, who plays right field for the 17-6 Sharks, is the consummate team player. She hit .259, scored 12 runs, had 25 RBI, and was named All County honorable mention by *The Miami Herald* for both softball and basketball.

In basketball, the 17-year-old McCall earned the MVP award by leading the Sharks to a 16-5 record. She was the top rebounder, scorer, shot blocker, and was also named to the Second All-Conference and South Atlantic Coast Conference teams. Next year, McCall, who plays center for the Sharks, will be named team captain.

"I'm so proud of her," said Bowers. "She's started for the varsity team since she was a freshman."

McCall has already visited colleges, and especially likes New York University. She said Florida State University is also a strong possibility.

Regardless of which university Christine attends, her goal is to return to South Florida and work for the tribe, preferably in social work.

"My goal is to work with children," said McCall.

McCall, who has attended Sheridan Hills since ninth grade, returns as a senior next year and looks to return to the regional championships in both softball and basketball. And thanks to McCall's athletic talents, winning a state title is now a reachable goal.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress revs up his Harley-Davidson motorcycle during the memorial ride.

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Mexican Style Mother's Day in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — In commemoration of Mother's Day, Immokalee Council Representative, Elaine Aguilar invited the ladies of the community to a luncheon on Friday May 7. She selected Lozano's, a popular local Mexican restaurant, for the get together.
Thirty-nine community members accepted

the invitation and enjoyed an afternoon of good food and excellent company. Chairman Mitchell Cypress took time out of his busy schedule to ride over on his Harley-Davidson and join in the celebration.
Seminole Police Officers Lyn Howard and Tom Faherty dropped by to wish everyone a happy and safe Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Dinner for Trail Mothers

By Adelsa Williams
MIAMI — On Wednesday, May 5, Trail Liaison William Osceola hosted a Mother's Day dinner for Seminole mothers living at the Miccosukee reservation. The event took place at the Miccosukee Casino and Resort's ballroom.
It was a reserved celebration. Everyone enjoyed a catered dinner from the resort. There was ham, beef, fried chicken, chicken breast, corn, sweet potatoes, to name a few.
Osceola gave a brief speech before dinner. He then handed out incentives and flower arrangements for all the mothers.
Tribal citizen, Mary Jane Billie, attended the dinner along with her seven children. She is a proud mother of four girls and three boys. It was a happy moment for all.
Mary Jane commented that Liaison Osceola is a very dedicated individual when it comes to reaching out to the community.
"I can't think of anyone else who can hold that seat, better than William," she said, "We're lucky to have him."



(L-R, back row) William Osceola, Sally Osceola, Morningstar Osceola holding Aaliyah, (front row) Jaime Osceola and Peggy Osceola.

Seminole Wind Horse Club Banquet

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Gym was crowded with Seminole Wind Horse Club (SWHC) members and their families for the Year End Awards banquet on May 15.
The evening was kicked off with a generous buffet supper which set the mood for a fun-filled occasion.
Following the meal, club President Melody Halperin, thanked the Seminole Tribe of Florida for their sponsorship in allowing the club to use the John Jimmie Memorial Arena for their show dates.
Immokalee Liaison Elaine Aguilar acknowledged the club's recognition of the Seminole Tribe, and spoke of the tribal commitment to community involvement.
"The club is family oriented and has always made good use of the arena," she said.
"Love one another—that is the main goal," she said.
The Horse Club's board of directors and outstanding volunteers were acknowledged individually with gift certificates. Special recognition awards and red, white and blue trophies were presented to outstanding riders in eight categories along with participation prizes.
The Bechtol/Miller family lost their 18-year-old daughter, Brooke, in an automobile accident dur-

ing the year and she was memorialized with a perpetual trophy titled Awesome Little Rider of the Year.
The Seminole Wind Horse Club had a wonderful show season in which there were twelve saddle awards. Numerous other prizes included belt buckles, horse tack, grooming supplies and riding apparel.



Immokalee Liaison Elaine Aguilar (top, right) congratulates Ayze Henry (center) and Chelsey Ford (top, right) at the SWHC banquet.

Three members of the Seminole Tribe Community took home their share of the treasures. Chelsey Ford received a Pee Wee Over-All First Place Barrel Saddle. During the season she averaged three first places and two seconds. Her prizes included a saddle blanket, headstall, breast collar, halter, reins, splint and bell boots.
Justina Billie won the Junior All-Around Speed Events and walked away with a new barrel saddle, belt buckle, halter and lead, breast collar, headstall, bell boots and First Aid Kit. Ayze Henry wrapped up the Senior Speed Division with a first place in all the events and ran away with the winning saddle. Her individual event prizes included a belt buckle, halter and lead, bell boots, shin guards and grooming supplies.
The Seminole Wind Horse Club will begin their new show season on the first Saturday in October and invites all tribal citizens to participate. See you next season.



Brighton students enjoyed the tour of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel, and their centerpiece gifts.

Brighton Students Go Backstage at Seminole Hard Rock for VIP Tour

By Iretta Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Board Representative David DeHass is sitting at the Constant Grind coffee shop in the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino waiting for a bus. The bus contains students from the First Indian Baptist Academy, located in Brighton.
DeHass has arranged for the students to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the beautiful new hotel. The bus arrives and the students are eager to explore the surroundings.
Tour guide Sylmarie gives the students an inside look at the kitchen, employee dining room, housekeeping, and uniform storage. The system in uniform storage is very much like the one Alicia Silverstone had in the movie Clueless, only the employee must swipe their badge in order to receive their uniform.
The students also visited storage and human resources, where the Hard Rock motto, Love All Serve All, is painted above a doorway and is also translated into Miccosukee.
At the conclusion of the tour the students were treated to a private poolside luncheon. Seminole Hard Rock staff took the students into consideration

when preparing for the lunch. The centerpieces were toys of all sorts; rubber ducks, rubber frogs, hula hoops, bubbles, toy soldiers and sunglasses. The students were encouraged to keep whatever toys they wanted.
When asked what they thought of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino their responses were unanimous.
"Cool!" exclaimed Nathan Gopher.
Reese Bert gave it two thumbs up (He was eating and unable to speak!)
"I like it" said Selena Billie, "It's cool!"
After lunch, the students were free to enjoy the pool for a couple of hours before heading home.
Academy Principal Crista Blackwell expressed her appreciativeness to DeHass.
"We are extremely grateful to David [DeHass] for doing this" said Blackwell "It's a beautiful hotel. I'm glad the students got to see it and enjoy it."
Congratulations to the students for completing another school year. Keep up the good work; remember that this is just one of the perks for staying in school.



Archery students (L-R) Tyler Harjochee and Marcus Robinson receive golden arrows for completing the archery program.

Pemayetv Completes Second Year

By Emma Brown
BRIGHTON — On Friday May 21, the Brighton Culture and Education department hosted the end of the program for the Pull-Out program (Pemayetv). This program was an opportunity for the teachers and staff of the Pull-Out program to share their unique teaching approach with members of the community, parents, and invited guests. The program is geared toward language and cultural preservation for students in kindergarten–fifth grade.
The program began with the Director of Education Louise Gopher, explaining how the pro-

schools are lacking."
The strong support from the local county school boards is evident. Support is an essential part of continuing with the Pull-Out program and the teachers and staff has worked very hard to prove that the program is worth while.
After lunch was over, the class presentations began with the Pledge of Allegiance presented in Creek. Then the kindergarten class introduced themselves and presented sounds in the Creek language, assisted by the Creek reading and writing teachers, Louise Gopher and Jenny Shore.
Next, arts and crafts teachers, Alice Sweat, Nancy Shore, Martha Jones, and Shirley Sampson brought the first grade class up to display to the audience the items that they have made and worked on in class.
History teachers, Willie Johns, Rita Gopher, and Dr. Susan Stans displayed the reading abilities of the second and third grade class by having them each read an excerpt of Mekko Semvnoylke.
Finally, the fourth and fifth grade demonstrated reading of the Creek language taught to them by Language Arts teachers, Diane Smith and Jenny Johns. Although our P.E. class did not have a presentation, P.E. teachers, Leroy Boyett and Tim Thomas, has been an essential part of the Pull-Out program this year.
Once the presentations were over, Archery teacher John Waterhouse, recognized four individuals for their dedication and hard work in the archery program. Tyler Harjochee, Corey Smith, Marcus and Eric Robinson were all recognized for completing the archery program and were presented with a golden arrow with their name on it. Each of them will also receive a complete archery set and are being trained for the upcoming indigenous games.
The Pull-Out program staff is very excited to have completed another year with good reviews. Shelly Walker, the Pull-Out Program Coordinator, has worked very hard to assist the program with structure and organization and her hard work definitely shows during the daily Friday routine at the Brighton Education Department.
It takes many people to make this program a success and without each teacher and staff member the Pull-Out program would not be possible.



J.T. Smith reads an excerpt from Mekko Semvnoylke.

gram got started from an idea that her daughter Rita Gopher had. Rita remembered how the Culture Department used to come into the schools when she was a student and pull them out of class to have a culture session.
This is how the program got the name Pull-Out. With the help and support of the Okeechobee County School Board, the Culture and Education Department were able to make this idea a reality and the program has just completed their second year with great success.
Once Mrs. Gopher was finished explaining the program, the kindergarten classes came up to lead the audience in the creek singing of happy birthday to all May, June and July birthdays, followed by the asking of the blessing in the Creek language.
Next, Louise gave the invited dignitaries a chance to speak. Among some of the dignitaries attending were Brighton Councilman Roger Smith, Okeechobee outgoing superintendent, Phoebe Raulerson, Okeechobee's incoming superintendent, Dr. Pat Cooper, Glades County Superintendent, Wayne Aldrich, Glades County Tax Collector, Larry Lucky, Glades County Clerk of Courts, Joe Flint, and members of Okeechobee and Glades County School Board and school system.
Superintendent, Phoebe Raulerson was an integral part of the Pull-Out Programs approval by the county and state. Raulerson recognized the importance of knowing your language and the advantages of students that know two languages. She shared with the crowd that she feels the program is a, "wonderful thing that we have brought about."
Dr. Pat Cooper, incoming superintendent for Okeechobee said, "I see the fruit bearing."
Mr. Aldrich, Glades County Superintendent, said, "I'll support this program as long as you want to have it. This program has helped close a gap on cultural differences, which is an area that so many



(L-R) Kailin Brown and Ashlee Gopher show off their patchwork skirts.

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All Terrain Vehicle Safety Program

By Judy Weeks and Michelle Ford
IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Reservation Gym was the location of the first stage of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) safety program on Wednesday, May 12. The Big Cypress Learning Resource Center is working with the Seminole Police Department and the Seminole Tribe Motocross staff, as well as other departments, to provide ATV training.

This program is being sponsored by Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and Recreation Director David Billie. Approximately 50 Immokalee community members were present.

The instructor for the classroom training was Officer Scott Akin of the Seminole Police Department. He was assisted by Officer Tom Faharty and Sergeant Laura Herron.

Prior to showing the group a video, Akin



Michelle Ford
Sergeant Laura Herron (back, center) and Officer Tom Faharty (right) except orders for ATV safety equipment.

ment such as helmets, long pants, boots, eye protection and gloves to name a few. The group and their parents were provided with Florida State Statute 316.2074 regarding ATVs. It was stressed that they must not be operated upon the public roads, streets or state highways.

Akin asked the audience if anyone owned an ATV, and nearly everyone in the room responded. When he asked how many had been in a wreck on one, the majority raised their hands. It was apparent that the class was a necessity.

He pointed out that anyone under sixteen years of age must wear a helmet by state law. If someone is stopped and receives a citation for not wearing a helmet or riding on

the public roadways, it is possible they could be denied their Florida driver's license, or have it suspended by a judge until they turn 18.

Permission slips were provided for parents' signatures, in order for their child to participate in a class at the Big Cypress Motocross Park. The park has a two-and-a-half mile track with six check points where the riders will be instructed on direction and driving techniques. This part of the ATV safety course that will take place in a few weeks. The Recreation Department will provide transportation to the course for those in need.

Aguilar and David Billie will be providing the participants who complete the classroom and track instruction with helmets, shirts, goggles, gloves, chest protectors and shin guards. The Seminole Police Department (SPD) will have someone airbrush a picture on each helmet and asked the participants to submit a drawing to the Recreation Department by May 19.

Faharty and Herron fitted helmets and shirts to the group following the video presentation. The gathering then enjoyed pizza and cold drinks while discussing what they had learned.

Elaine Aguilar and SPD would like to thank those in attendance for their cooperation in making the Immokalee reservation a safer community.



Michelle Ford
SPD Officer Scott Akin fits Vanessa Billie for a new safety helmet.

told them about several accidents he had covered as well as some he had heard about. The concern is that there have been considerable injuries resulting from ATV accidents and a growing concern that there will be more to follow.

The instructor discussed proper safety equip-

Miccosukee Police At Work

By Don Osceola
TAMIA MI TRAIL — Recently, the Miccosukee Police Underwater Search and Rescue Team searched in the canals along the US 41 on the Miccosukee Reservation.

They were searching for vehicles that ended up under the water for number of reasons. For example, car thieves dumping them, someone trying to commit insurance fraud, and/or some unfortunate traveler accidentally driving off the highway at night with no one to witness it and call police.



Don Osceola
Miccosukee police officers (L-R) Pedro Franco and Ben Eaker.

Tenelle Boyce: Contribution Pays Off



Photo provided by Amanda Boyce
Tenelle Boyce enjoying himself at the beach in his new pacer gate trainer.

By Adelsa Williams
HOLLYWOOD — A few months ago, Jennifer Keefe from the public relations department ran a collection among all employees at the Hollywood headquarters of The Seminole Tribe of Florida. Proceeds of the collection went towards the purchase of a new walking device, called a pacer gate trainer, for Tenelle Boyce, son of fellow employee Amanda Boyce from the travel department.

"I know Amanda appreciates it," said Keefe, "It makes me happy about my job."

Twenty-year-old Tenelle has lived most of his life in a wheelchair, which has been his only method of mobilization. Since the purchase of the new device he has been more mobile. It has been a different and more enjoyable experience for him when he visits the park and the beach. He even takes a walk to the neighborhood store down the street from his house.

"He feels like he's walking on his own; he always wanted on of those," said Boyce, "I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart, it makes me happy to see my son do the things he enjoys."

Jennifer Keefe and Amanda Boyce would like to extend their gratitude to all of those who helped make this possible for Tenelle.

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Seminole Police Department Crime Statistics											
April 2004											
Classification of Offenses	Total Number of Offenses	Total Value Property Stolen	Total Arrests	JUVENILES		ADULTS		RACE			
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Caucasian	Black	American Indian	Asian
Murder											
Sex Offense											
Robbery											
Aggravated Battery	4		4			4		3		1	
Battery	19		12	1		6	5	8	1	3	
Burglary	2	\$430									
Larceny	17	\$11591	2			1	1	2			
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	\$48000									

Narcotics Confiscated During Arrests											
Drug Type			Amount		Value						
Marijuana (grams)			40.53		\$153						
Cocaine (grams)											
Crack Cocaine (grams)											
Alprazolam / Xanax (pills)			1		\$5						
Oxycodone (pills)											
Oxycontin (pills)											
Crystal Methamphetamines			12.5		\$180						
Other Narcotics (pills)											

Classification of Offenses	Total Arrests	JUVENILES		ADULTS		RACE			
		Male	Female	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian	Asian
DUI	2			2	1			1	
Stolen Property									
Weapons Violation									
Liquor Law Violation									
Miscellaneous	10			7	3	6	1	3	
Drugs (Possession / Sale)	10	3		5	2	7	1	2	

K-9 Apollo Visits Immokalee Preschool

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — The preschool children in Immokalee were delighted by a visit from K-9 Apollo and his handler, Officer Duane Pottorff of the Seminole Department of Law Enforcement.

K-9 Apollo is an 85-pound black Labrador retriever who is very friendly and particularly loves children. But don't let that fool you! He is very alert, knows his job and does it well. K-9 Apollo was born on January 25, 2001, in Chicago, Ill. He received his police officer training at Von Liche Kennels in Denver, Ind.

One might call this intelligent animal "bilingual" since he understands his commands in both English and Dutch. His training included the ability to locate specific drugs such as Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine and Heroin.

While Apollo enjoyed a visit with the children on the playground, which included a lot of hugs and petting, an officer hid a bag of contraband inside the school. Later, they entered the classroom and Officer Pottorff instructed Apollo to search the premises. To the children's amazement, he quickly located the bag hidden in the bookshelves. A job well done!

K-9 Apollo was purchased in October of 2003 by the Seminole Police Department. Before coming to Florida, he trained for three weeks with Officer Pottorff, with whom he works and lives. Apollo is a full-fledged police officer, on call 24

hours a day. If a criminal were to strike him or injure him in anyway, the offender would be charged with striking an officer and be held accountable just like he were a human officer.

Not only does Apollo work a regular schedule, but he and officer Pottorff spend approximately 4



Michelle Ford
Preschool students learn with interest about their K-9 police officer.

hours weekly training with other police departments. The part of his job he enjoys the best is the time he spends doing demonstrations in schools and at events.

With Officer Apollo on the job, our community is a safer place to live.

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Free Community Health Fair at Seminole Coconut Creek Casino

By Felix DoBosz
COCONUT CREEK — On Tuesday May18, the Coconut Creek Casino sponsored a Health Fair. A giant white air-conditioned tent was



A health services employee (right) records blood pressure results for a health conscious citizen.

setup outside, adjacent to the casino building. This was an opportunity for the community to get a free quick health analysis from more than 20 local health service vendors. Tables with free pamphlets; pens and charts with loads of health information were in full supply as guests mingled about viewing many of the services being offered by the local vendors.

A very popular stop for many health conscious citizens was the table setup for sugar and cholesterol testing. Nurses were very professional as they performed the screening of the collected blood samples in front of the folding tables and chairs they had setup to attract potential patients. At the Northwest Medical centers blood pressure station, a nurse was taking vital statistics from anyone who was interested in knowing their blood pressure numbers. Even the local Red Cross was there with the big white bus to collect blood donations from the public.

There were several chiropractic services all competing for immediate

attention of those milling about the health exhibits. Some offered free massages, others had interesting new devices and some measured bone density and anti-oxidants.

One of these new fascinating devices was called the Pharmanex®. According to the display “The patented Pharmanex® BioPhotonic Scanner is a new, cutting-edge testing tool that safely measures carotenoid levels and provides immediate evidence of a person’s carotenoid antioxidant levels. Studies conducted at a top U.S. Research University have shown that this measurement of Skin Carotenoid Score (or SCS) can be used to infer the status of other nutrients in the body.”

As a result of this testing process, most people tested were surprised to find that they were lacking in total nutrition. They were selling their LifePak® dietary supplements, which they claimed, were the best quality nutrient supplements on the market. Unfortunately, they didn’t provide any free samples for the public to try out.

Gary Kast, public relations coordinator for the Seminole Coconut Creek Casino, helped publicize this second community health fair. “This event is free for all tribal members to check out and also open to the employees and their families,” Kast said. “We are working hard to generate a positive image for the tribe and the casino...and we want to give back to the community by having these types of events.”



The new Delux Pharmanex® biophotonic scanner is being used to measure skin carotenoid antioxidant levels.

Seminole Health Department Fights Back Against Mosquitoes

By Jaime Restrepo
BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Health Department met with representatives of Clark Mosquito Control, one of the largest mosquito control companies in the country, at Big Cypress Aviation to discuss and kickoff the 2004 mosquito control program on the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood Reservations. Present were Jason Lincoln, Douglas Wilson for Clark Mosquito Control, Patrick Peck, Environmental Health Manager, and Clint El-Ramey, pilot from Seminole Aviation.

The tribe is in its second year of a contractual agreement with Clarke Mosquito Control. For the last year, community members have noticed a dramatic decrease in mosquito populations. This is important because mosquitoes are carriers of West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine, Malaria, and Saint Louis Encephalitis.

West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine are serious diseases. Both are transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes, who in turn, get it from infected birds. Horses can be infected with and die from Eastern Equine. Symptoms of infection range from mild flu-like illness, high fever, neck stiffness, to encephalitis. With regard to West Nile virus, most persons will not show symptoms. In fact, 80 percent of those infected may go through the infection and healing process without ever knowing they were infected. Eastern Equine is much more serious. 35 percent of the persons who develop the



Spray unit used on helicopters to help control mosquito overpopulation.

disease will die from it.

The 2004 mosquito control season coincides with the rainy season. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. The more standing water areas, the

Mosquitoes are a major health concern for many South Floridians.

greater the chance for increased mosquito populations. Techniques used in mosquito control involve the use of light traps, live test chickens, the application of larvacide and spraying. The live chickens are used to check if any infections have been transmitted from mosquito bites. Once a week, a blood sample is taken to check for disease. If it tests positive, the traps are inspected to check for specific species. Depending on the number of mosquitoes trapped, a determination is made as to what type of treatment is necessary, which includes spraying if necessary.

Weekly reports are sent to the Health Department and Seminole Aviation, including the number of infected chickens, if any. Both departments are working jointly in the program with funding from the Health Department. In addition, other treatments, such as spraying, are reported and mapped. At times, larvacide is used when there is a high potential for eggs laying in standing water. This is done by Clarke Mosquito Control and only if there is evidence of heavy egg infestation in bodies of water. According to Clint El-Ramey, the Seminole helicopter is used to disperse a fine mist of insecticide in specific areas whenever spraying is indicated. The pilot flies in a grid pattern until the area is treated.

Mosquitoes are attracted by carbon dioxide and light. Carbon dioxide is what a person exhales. Only the female of the species bites. They use blood as their source of food. Some species are more aggressive than others, but all species can carry the diseases.

Great care is taken when spraying. It takes place in the early morning or sundown, when bees are nesting. The chemicals used when spraying are safe to use, have a short life- break down to harmless components, and do not affect humans or livestock.

Other means of controlling mosquitoes include: removing of any open container that can hold standing water, changing the water in bird baths every two to three days, cleaning and unclogging rain gutters, eliminating any surface ponding (puddles) around the house, reporting any dead birds, wearing clothing to protect against bites like long sleeves, long pants, and socks, repairing screens around house and patios, and using insect repellent with the chemical DEET.



Jim Osceola (right) demonstrated vegan cooking, making fettuccini and garlic confetti.

Employees Get Checked at Health Fair

By Shelley Marmor
HOLLYWOOD — On Wednesday May 19, employees from the Hollywood Headquarters gathered in the auditorium to partake in a health fair. Upon entering the auditorium, attendees took booklets titled, “My Health Passport.”

They then went around to different testing stations and employees from the health department and Memorial Hospital conducted tests including cholesterol, blood pressure and lung capacity. The testers wrote down the scores in the health passport booklets.

Kenny Bayon, certified fitness trainer for the tribe, was also on hand to conduct body fat percentages. He used a body fat analyzer to determine each person’s body mass index. According to Bayon, this machine sends electrodes through the body which determine a person’s biorhythms, and then converts everything into a body fat percentage. This test took only a few moments, and was painless.

Norman Jacinto, RN, from the Cardiac and Vascular Institute at Memorial Hospital was conducting blood pressure tests, while his colleague Cheri Basignami, RN, conducted lung capacity tests. For the lung capacity test, participants had to blow into a hollow tube. The amount of pressure they used to blow determined their lung capacity, but Basignami said that is only one of many tests needed to actually determine a person’s lung capacity.

“This is just a snapshot,” Basignami said. Restaurant owner Jim Osceola demonstrated how to cook fettuccini and garlic confetti, a vegan

meal. Vegan foods do not contain any animal products. He said he hoped to show people they can get healthier by not eating meat, which is high in fat.

“I am trying to introduce food alternatives to the Seminole Tribe,” Osceola said.

He said the hardest part of transitioning to a



Kenny Bayon C.F.T (right) records Kathy Wilson’s body fat analysis. Wilson is manager of eligibility and utilization for the health department.

meat-less diet it getting over thinking that if there is no meat on the plate, it is hard to be satisfied. One tip he offered was cutting vegetables in large chunks, saying, the large bites of food will help people think they are getting full.

In his fettuccini and garlic confetti dish, he used a type of garlic called elephant garlic. Osceola said this type of garlic mimics a meatball, since it is so large. Again, this will trick the brain into believing the person has eaten something heavier than they actually have.

Shannon McKeown, tribal health educator and Kerri Descheene, from the tribal dental program, were also at the health fair. McKeown conducted pulse rate, heart rate and waist to hip ratio testing, while Descheene offered tips on proper oral health.

Employees including Tribal Clerk Holly Tiger and Melissa Sherman from the communications department went above and beyond, and donated blood. They then made their way back inside the auditorium to dine on some of the healthy fruit and veggie selections at the salad bar.



Cheri Basignami, RN, from the Cardiac and Vascular Institute at Memorial Hospital tests Seminole Tribune employee Stephen Galla’s lung capacity.

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LaVonne Kippenberger (center), Bobbie Lou Billie (back, right), Trishara Storm (front, right) doing water aerobics with the assistance of an instructor from the Don Shula Hotel (left).

Women’s Wellness Conference 2004

By Iretta Tiger
MIAMI LAKES, FL — On Friday May 28, Seminole women from all reservations gathered at Don Shula’s Hotel for the First Annual Women’s Wellness Conference.

The four-day conference began with a dinner that included a quiz on Don Shula. Winners Dorothy Tommie and LaVonne Kippenberger each received a



Josephine M. North (left) sewing a heart.

Miami Dolphins hat. Tommie’s knowledge of anything Miami Dolphins rivals that of even Shula himself!

The first evening ended with a gathering hosted by the Family Services department. Everyone was given beads and a leather string to create necklaces and it was time for the women to relax and enjoy each other’s company.

Each day was started with a very early morning walk or jog, breakfast and prayer, including a prayer in sign language by Denise Alley.

Workshops ranged in subject from self-defense techniques to creating art to grieving. The late-afternoon was dedicated to physical fitness with a choice of water aerobics or rez-robics.

After dinner on the second night, an impromptu play was performed using the conference attendees. There were cheerleaders, dancers and actors. The play celebrated the versatility of women.

Right on the heels of the play was karaoke. Shirley Tiger Sampson was the first to perform singing the gospel song, “In the Garden.” Though trepid at first, several women gradually joined and jammed late into the night.

At breakfast the next morning, it was obvious who stayed the whole night to sing! The start of the third day began with a religious one person play titled The Women at the Well and followed by a scripture reading.

The first sessions of workshops for the day dealt with looking within yourself. One class in particular, It’s Okay to be Angry, was very illuminating.

The class focused on the different types of anger, anger that is destructive and not healthy, and went to the root of the anger. Instructors discussed why we feel a certain type of anger and why a person tends to lean towards that anger. The class also offered solutions to break away from the unhealthy anger, simple solutions that one can do and, pay attention parents, solutions you can do to help your chil-

dren deal with their anger.

This workshop is highly recommended, especially for teenagers who don’t know what to do about their anger, maybe a few young lives can be saved before they become self-destructive. The workshop is taught by the Family Services department and they are willing to start a workshop; all they need are people who are willing to participate. This workshop is also offered at the annual wellness conferences.

Again, the late-afternoon was reserved for either physical fitness or prayer.

Following dinner the Family Service department separated the women into six groups. The groups were given an egg, several straws and a length of tape. The goal was to work as a team and create some sort of case for the egg. The case had to be strong enough to prevent the egg from cracking when dropped from different heights. Half the eggs survived.

On Monday, the final day of the conference, the women gathered one last time after breakfast to create one last project; sewing heart pillows. As the project wound down, each of the women spoke in turn about the conference, what they discovered, and about how good it was to take time out for themselves.

Throughout the conference the women were treated to a massage and a facial. I thought a massage was wonderful, but a facial is absolute heaven!

Yvonne Courtney really knows how to pamper a woman! The conference covered everything a person is; mental, spiritual, emotional, physical and even the creative side.



Janice Osceola creates a collage.

Thank you to the tribal council for sponsoring this conference and thank you to Yvonne Courtney for creating this conference. It’s a conference all the women of the tribe should attend at least



Conference coordinator Yvonne Courtney (right) plays cheerleader for the conference play.

Big Cypress Women’s Wellness Awareness Day

By Christopher Scanlon
BIG CYPRESS — Community members from Big Cypress and Immokalee participated in the first Women’s Wellness Awareness Day on Thursday, May 13, in the Family Investment Center.

The all-day event coincided with National Women’s Week and was put-on by staff from the B.C. Wellness Center, Clinic, Dental department, SPD, and Family Services, as well as, representatives from Hendry Regional Medical Center and Art Riley from Hear-Rx who offered a wide variety of health and safety information focusing on women.

Specific topics included safety and self-defense for women, different types of cancer, dealing with stress and raising children, nutrition, diet, and body mass index, oral health, and sexually transmit-

ted diseases. Additionally, Helene Buster checked brave participants’ blood sugar while St. Clair Pilgrim from the B.C. Clinic checked blood pressure.

The guests from Hendry Regional Medical Center scheduled mammograms and brought a bone density testing machine, which quickly and painlessly indicates the strength and density of bones by measuring the heel bone.

The information and testing were offered to inform women and highlight the unique health issues that women of all ages face. Participants left with bags full of pamphlets and literature, a few quick test results, and appointments for hearing tests and mammograms. A healthy breakfast and lunch were also provided during the day.

Women’s Wellness Day at the Brighton Clinic

By Barbara Boling,
Health Educator

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community participated in the first ever Women’s Wellness Day at the Brighton Medical Clinic. Tribal citizens and community members visited the clinic on May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to learn more about issues specific to women’s health.

The Brighton Health Department staff, under the direction of Connie Whidden and organized by clinic manager Patty Waldron, joined forces with various community organizations to make this event one to remember.

The clinic lobby was transformed as presenters from organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Indian River Community College, Senior Solutions of Southwest Florida, Curves Weight Loss Center, Pregnancy Resource Center, Okeechobee County Health Department, Martha’s House, Caring People greeted the Brighton community and discussed ways to improve and preserve a woman’s health.

The Brighton dental department along with allied health, and family services provided informative tables and exhibits. Brighton’s nurse practitioner Melanie Mello discussed stress management as well as providing some much needed demonstrations of stress relief through massage.

Every person that attended the event was treated to a personal health bag designed by the clinic to help every woman feel special along with healthy snacks provided by the Brighton dietitian, Beth Skinner.

Door prizes were drawn at the end of the day. These prizes included gift certificates for services such as a manicure, pedicure, hair care and a glamour shot photograph.



Beth Skinner, Brighton dietitian (left) assists tribal citizen Claudia Olivarez.



Addie Osceola (center) stands between representatives from the Okeechobee branch of the American Cancer Society. All three women are breast cancer survivors.



Billie Tiger (left) of the Caring People organization with tribal citizen Alice Snow.

University of Florida 4-H Summer Ed-Ventures

Interested in an environmental and educational vacation? Check out a host of fun, summer programs sponsored by the University of Florida 4-H. Enjoy canoeing, snorkeling, fishing, archery, shooting sports, hiking, and lots more. But hurry, the earliest registration deadline is June 21.

For more information about the many exciting summer programs offered at the University of Florida 4-H, please contact Polly Hayes at (863) 763-5020 or Candi Mancil at (863) 983-3436. The website is <http://4h.ifas.ufl.edu/index1.htm>.

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Ethan Cypress on first base, Neko Osceola on second and Nichoulas DeHass is in rightfield playing hard against the Pembroke Pines Yankees at the last home game of the season.

Last Home Game of this Season for Seminole T-Ball

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — Who says T-ball is boring? On Thursday May 13, two competing teams put up high numbers on the scoreboard during this fun filled slugfest on a sunny afternoon. Held at the Seminole ball field, nobody was really sure what the score was, but everyone was sure these little sluggers were having a great time as each team got their licks in by swinging the bat at the T-ball.

Terry Tartsah, who coaches the Seminole T-ball team, shouted words of encouragement to all his little players as he demonstrated to each batter how he wants them to hit.

Coach Terry said, “C’mon now, it’s OK buddy, you got it,” as the little slugger hit one into right field.

One of the Seminole bench coaches yelled to the players in the fenced in dugout, “Don’t just throw your stuff on the ground, hang it in its place.”

Coach Terry explained, “If a kid throws the bat after swinging at the ball it counts as an out.”

After a brief distraction of four Seminole



Ethan Cypress (left) and Kiana Bell (right) warm-up before taking a whack at the ball.

Police cars racing by with sirens wailing and lights flashing, everyone focused back to the ball game as though nothing had happened. The sounds of T-ball came alive again as supportive parents; friends and relatives encouraged the future major leaguers from the home stands.

Carl Baxley said he enjoys watching the Seminole T-ball games a lot, besides his grandson is playing on the Seminole team. “Its good for them to learn about teamwork, about winning and losing,” Baxley said. “They don’t know all the rules, but they get to have fun. Sometimes they cry when they lose but they’ve got to learn.”

Coach Terry continued to shout to his young players on the field, “C’mon be alert, pay attention,” as the next batter for the Pembroke Pines Yankees got up to hit the T-ball.

The Seminole T-ball team finishes up their season with a game in Pembroke Pines. If you’re looking to watch some fun, be sure to come out next year and cheer on the young T-ballers.



Coach Terry Tartsah (right) shows Kiana Bell (left) proper batting techniques.



Some of the 35 ropers line up at 5 p.m. for the Three Head Round Robin Competition.

Round Robin Team Roping in Immokalee

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — A Three Head Round Robin Team Roping took place at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena in Immokalee on Saturday April 24. The entrants included 18 headers and 17 heelers. The roping, which started at 5 p.m., ran until 10:30 p.m.

This Round Robin Competition placed each header with each heeler one time in the first round comprising 306 teams. The scoring teams returned to compete again in the second round. In the third round, each team that had scored together twice came back for one last throw. At the end of the night the scores were tabulated and averaged. The five fastest team scores were the winners. Each winning team was awarded prize money in accordance with the order in which they placed.

1. Derek Davis, Juan Sanchez, 2. Josh Jumper, Bear Weeks, 3. Benny Hernandez, Wayne Hicks, 4. Josh Jumper, Larrett Lawrence, 5. Derek Davis, Benny Hernandez.

Eastern Indian Rodeo Queen Ayze Henry practices at this arena on Monday nights. This was her first real roping competition and she was thrilled by the fact that she made it to all three rounds. This was no easy fete, as many of the other ropers present can attest.

Immokalee’s Council Representative Elaine Aguilar assisted at the concession stand and was on hand all evening offering words of encouragement.



Ayze Henry (left) catches and prepares to dally as Michael Henry (right) goes for the heels.

Seminoles Compete in Level 2 State Championship Gymnastics Competition

By Shelley Marmor
BOCA RATON, FL — On Sunday May 16, six Seminole girls competed in the level 2 portion of the American Athletic Union (AAU) Gold Coast State Championships. This was the second day of a two-day long gymnastics competition.

These youngsters, Leah Cox, Raevin Frank, Anissa Osceola, Anahna Sirota, Katelyn Young and Tianna Young, all represented Flairs Gymnastics in Davie, Fla. They competed in four events: vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor; which are the typical events of any compulsory gymnastics competition.

Leah Cox and Raevin Frank both placed in the top 20 overall, out of 53 competitors in their division. Cox and Frank came in eighth and sixteenth, respectively.

Cox received a nine out of 10 or better in all four events. She scored the highest out all the girls of her entire group with 36.4 out of 40 points overall. All the girls scored an 8.5 or better on two out of

four events they competed in.

Congratulations to all the competitors. Here is a list of all the scores form the AAU Gold Coast State Championships:

Vault: 1. Leah Cox, 9.15; 2. Raevin Frank, 9.1; 3. Anahna Sirota, 8.75; 4. Katelyn Young, 8.575; 5. Tianna Young, 8.225; 6. Anissa Osceola, 7.675.

Uneven Bars: 1. Leah Cox, 9; 2. Anahna Sirota, 9.075; 3. Anissa Osceola, 9; 4. Raevin Frank, 8.9; 5. Katelyn Young, 8.7; 6. Tianna Young, 8.65.

Balance Beam: 1. Leah Cox, 9.15; 2. Raevin Frank, 8.975; 2. Tianna Young, 8.975; 4. Anahna Sirota, 8.8; 5. Katelyn Young, 8.7; 5. Anissa Osceola, 8.7.

Floor: 1. Leah Cox, 9.1; 2. Raevin Frank, 8.825; 3. Anahna Sirota, 8.075; 4. Katelyn Young, 8.3; 5. Tianna Young, 8.25; 6. Anissa Osceola, 7.75.

Overall: 1. Leah Cox, 36.4; 2. Raevin Frank, 35.8; 3. Anahna Sirota, 34.7; 4. Katelyn Young, 34.275; 5. Tianna Young, 34.1; 6. Anissa Osceola, 33.125.



Cindi Adair spends a lot of time practicing her routine before the competition begins at Lynn University.

Cindi Adair Competes in 2004 AAU State Gymnastics Championship

By Felix DoBosz
BOCA RATON, FL — Seminole youngster Cindi Adair was among 600 athletes from more than 30 eligible gymnastics clubs participating in the 2004 American Athletic Union (AAU) Gymnastics State Championship, held at the Lynn University gymnasium.

Held on Saturday May 15, Adair prepared herself without fanfare in the large, brightly lit gym before the competition with a few hundred other girls in the same age group. The competition was about to start as Cindi continued her stretch and tumble routine on the thick blue rubber mats laid out on the huge gym floor.

According to her coaches Sibylle and Randy Walters, founders of Flairs Gymnastics in Davie, Fla.,

Adair competed in four different categories: vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor events with about 20 other girls from Flairs.

In the past six years, she has competed at level three, the highest level any member of the tribe has competed in.

“Although Cindi is not one of the team members with the greatest natural ability, her dedication and excellent attendance has earned her a place on the level 3 squad,” said Randy Walters.

Congratulations to Cindi Adair, and all other Seminoles who competed from Flairs Gymnastics in this year’s State AAU Championship.

Here are the scores given to Cindi Adair by the AAU: vault: 8.7; uneven bars: 7.95; balance beam: 8.35; floor: 7.55; overall: 32.55.

Sheridan Hills Sharks Fall to Tampa Cambridge

By Michael Kelly
TAMPA — After winning the regionals in Homestead on May 14, it was on to Tampa for the Sheridan Hills Sharks girl’s softball team. Their next opponent would be the formidable Tampa Cambridge softball team. Unfortunately, the Sharks came up a little short, losing the Class 1A semifinal game, 7-1.

Even though the team lost their game on May 20, the Sharks have a great chance of not only returning to the regionals, but also playing for the state title.

If there is a bright side to the tough loss, it’s that Christine McCall and her teammates didn’t miss their prom after all. If the Sharks would have won their Thursday afternoon game, they would play for the championship on Friday, thus, missing their prom. Well, the team players were able to attend their prom, and according to Christine’s mother, Wanda Bowers, she and her teammates had a great time.

Wait until next year Cambridge!



Christine McCall (top, left corner) and her fellow Sheridan Hills Sharks celebrate making it to the semifinals.

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Cinco de Mayo Rodeo in Immokalee



Steer rider J.J. Johns puts his hand up and rides to the winner's circle.

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — Rodeo enthusiasts turned out Saturday May 1, at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena in Immokalee to watch the Eastern Indian Rodeo participants perform. Immokalee Council Representative Elaine Aguilar, not only sponsored the event, but also assisted with the concession stand.

The evening performance began at 5 p.m., with the Junior Rodeo. The results were: Mutton Busting: 1. Sean Osceola, 2. Kalgary Johns, 3. Jobe Johns, Calf Riding: 1. Andre Jumper, 2. Josh Johns and Blevyn's Jumper and 3. J.J. Johns; Steer Riding: 1. Seth Randolph; Junior Bull Riding: 1. Justin Aldridge, 2. Dayne Johns; Junior Bareback: 1. Jacoby Johns, 2. Seth Randolph; 4-8 Year Barrels: 1. Acealyn Youngblood, 2. Courtney Gore, 3. Andre Jumper; 9-12 Year Barrels: 1. Zane Ducheneaux, 2. Nauthkee Henry, 3. Chebon Gooden; 13-18 Year Barrels: 1. LeAnna Billie, 2. Shyla Jones

As always, these young cowboys and cow-girls delighted the spectators with their willingness and bravery. Whether on a sheep, cow or horse, they ride out into the arena with great expectations and "cowboy-up" when it's over.

Sanctioned events for the seniors began at 7 p.m. with a Grand Entry. The results of the competition are as listed below.

Bareback: Alex Johns; Steer Wrestling: Alex Johns; Saddle Bronc: 1. Shawn Best Sr.; Calf Roping: Happy Jumper, 2. Naha Jumper, 3. Josh Jumper; Women's Breakaway: 1. Pauletta Bowers, 2. Reba Osceola, 3. Trina Bowers; 50 and Over Breakaway: 1. Jonah Cypress, 2. Amos Tiger; Team Roping: 1. Marvin Bowers/Trina Bowers, 2. Shelby Osceola/Theresa Bowers, 3. Jeff Johns/Todd Johns, 4. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper, 5. Sydney Gore/Amos Tiger; Women's

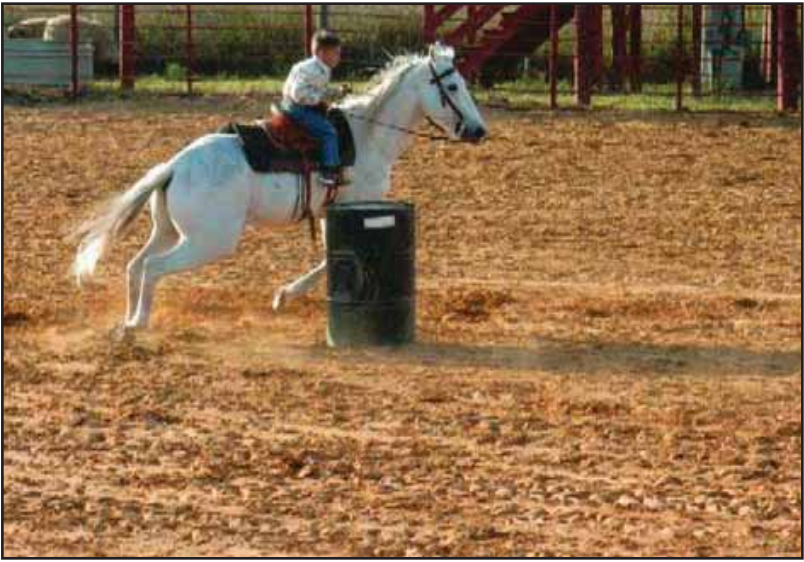


Justin Aldridge sky rockets out of the chute for a fantastic bull ride.

Barrels: 1. Tess Ducheneaux, 2. Boogie Jumper, 3. Sheyanna Osceola; Bull Riding: 1. Shawn Best Sr., 2. Koty Brugh.

Sheila Aguilar was on hand with her camera and captured many live action scenes. Lisa Osceola and Sherri Gore, secretaries of the stock contractor, D.R. Daniels, manned the announcer's booth. They handled recording the points, computing the winners and distributing the rewards.

Liz Johns worked as "go-for" behind the scenes, assisting wherever needed to help things run smoothly. It takes a lot of manpower and volunteer help to put on a rodeo of this size, and everyone's efforts are appreciated.



Jobe Johns turns a mean barrel pattern.

EIRA Rodeo Held in Big Cypress

By Tabitha Osceola

BIG CYPRESS — On May 22, Big Cypress was the host to another exciting Eastern Indian Rodeo (EIRA). With the 2003-2004 rodeo season coming to the end, the competition was getting highly competitive. There are only three rodeos left before the Champion and Reserve Champion of each event is announced and on their way to the Indian National Finals Rodeo in California.

The next rodeo will be held in Brighton on July 3, with the kid's events starting at 5 p.m. and the sanctioned events starting at 7 p.m.

Rodeo Results

Kid's Events: Mutton Busting: Sean Osceola; Calf Riding: Andre Jumper; 4-8 years Barrels: Acealyn Youngblood; 9-12 years Barrels: Zane Ducheanux; 13-18 years



Rodeo participants and winners, (L-R)Theresa Bowers, Trina Bowers and Shelby Osceola.

Barrels: Leanna Billie; Junior Bull Riding: Ethan Gopher; Junior Bareback: Seth Randolph.

Sanctioned Events: Steer Wrestling: 1. Naha Jumper; 2. Sydney Gore; Saddle Bronc: No winners; Calf Roping: 1. Josh Jumper, 2. Naha Jumper; Women's Breakaway: 1. Lizzey Dixey, 2. Billie Tiger, 3. Shelby Osceola; 50 & Over Breakaway: 1. Rudy Osceola; Team Roping: 1. Josh Jumper/Naha Jumper, 2. Marvin Bowers/Trina Bowers, 3. Shelby Osceola/Theresa Bowers, 4. Pauletta Bowers/Alex Johns; Women's Barrels: 1. Tess Ducheanux, 2. Boogie Jumper, 3. Trina Bowers; Bull Riding: No entries.



Jobe Johns patiently waiting his turn to race around the barrels.

Golfers Wanted

Submitted by AIFI

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) invites golfers from the United States and Canada to play in the Will Sampson Memorial Golf Classic, starting at noon on July 17, at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, 10325 Nu-Wav Kaiv Blvd., Las Vegas, Nev. Tribal leaders, producers, writers, directors and actors from the Native American and Hollywood film communities will compete in the tournament to benefit the Tribute to Will Sampson Documentary Film Fund by AIFI, based in San Francisco.

Registration forms are available on the

American Indian Film Institute's website at www.aifisf.com. Entry fees are \$350 for individuals, or \$1,360 for golf foursomes. Airfare, lodging and transportation are not included in the entry fee.

The classic starts at noon with a Putting and Chipping Contest. The cost is \$5 per ball, or 3 balls for \$10. The tournament format will be a scramble, open to men and women of all golfing abilities.

For more sponsorship opportunities, registration and general information on the golf and dinner auction, please refer to AIFI's website at www.aifisf.com, or call (415) 554-0525.

Attention All Hollywood Community Members: Ticket List of Monthly Events

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		1 MRL VS CIN	2 MRL VS CIN	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 ERIC CLAPTON ODC MRL VS CWS	16 MRL VS CWS	17 MRL VS CWS	18 MARC ANTHONY A.A.A. MRL VS TEX	19 MRL VS TEX
20 MRL VS TEX	21 WWE RAW A.A.A.	22 MRL VS ATL	23 MRL VS ATL	24 MRL VS ATL	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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				1	2 MRL VS TPA	3 MRL VS TPA
4 MRL VS TPA	5 MRL VS PIT	6 MRL VS PIT	7 MRL VS PIT	8 CLIFFORD A.A.A. 7:00PM	9 MRL VS NYM CLIFFORD A.A.A. 7:00PM	10 SHANIA TWAIN ODC MRL VS NYM CLIFFORD A.A.A. 2PM / 5PM
11 MRL VS NYM CLIFFORD A.A.A. 1PM / 430PM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 MRL VS PHI	27 MRL VS PHI	28 MADONNA ODC MRL VS PHI	29 MADONNA ODC MRL VS PHI	30 MRL VS MON	31 MRL VS MON

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Seminole Tribe 2004 Sports Festival Banquet

By Nery Mejicano

HALLANDALE BEACH, FL — Following five successful years, the tribe's 2004 Sports Festival promised to be the largest so far. It started with a banquet on the fourth floor of the Hollywood Greyhound Track Thursday, May 27.

On Friday May 28 the best of the Seminole pool players came together for the men and women's 8-ball singles tournament. They were joined by players from other tribes, who also brought their best. More than 100 players, their friends, families and guests came together for this exciting event. It was held at the third floor of the Greyhound Track.

Seminole Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress participated in the tournament. Tribal President Moses Osceola came by to



Nery Mejicano

Elrod Bowers bears down on his next shot.

cheer the players while on his way to participate in the bowling tournament which was also part of the Sports Festival.

On the men's singles,

Seminole tribal citizens dominated the field to the end. George Grasshopper, Elrod Bowers, Cicero Osceola and David Cypress gave the Oklahoma players a run for their money. On the women's side, Theresa Nuñez, Juanita Osceola and Dale Grasshopper kept the opposition working hard for every ball pocketed.

Vivian Villarreal, "The Texas Tornado" was on the sidelines, but did not have to provide any advice to the already skillful tribal players. The final results on the singles tournament are as follows:

Men Singles

1. Joe Carson, 2. George Grasshopper, 3. Elrod Bowers, 4. Danny Brewer, 5. James Clay.

Women's Singles

1. Theresa Nuñez, 2. Karla Bagley, 3. Cheryl Backward, 4. Diana Peters, 5. Juanita Osceola.

Competitors Bowl During 2004 Sports Festival

By Felix DoBosz

HALLANDALE BEACH, FL — Holiday Bowling Lanes, adjacent to the Hollywood Greyhound Race Track, was the place to be this past Memorial Weekend for the Fifth Annual Bowling Tournament. This three-day tournament started team play at 3 p.m. Friday and was followed up by mixed doubles at 7 p.m. The action continued into Saturday and Sunday, starting at noon.

The Big Cypress Recreation Department, under the guidance of Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress and B.C. recreation director George Grasshopper, hosted this bowling tournament.

According to the info sheet provided by B.C. recreation manager Stan Frischman, "The purpose of this tournament is to promote participation, sportsmanship and goodwill among Indian bowlers. The tournament is open to all ABC/WIBC sanctioned Indian bowlers."

Seminole citizens, representing four reservations, participated in an event-filled weekend that also featured billiards and a golf tournament.

Only about half-a-dozen bowlers were there on Friday afternoon when the tournament started. By the

end of the afternoon, more than two dozen bowlers had arrived; some even brought their entire families.

Moses Osceola, President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., arrived early and was signed up for mixed doubles ready to bowl. After a few minutes, three more bowling lanes with lights on opened up as more players arrived.

Winning is determined by the best bowling score average in the different categories over the three-day event. Bowling scores are recorded automatically by computer, which tracks how many pins are knocked down by one roll of the ball. 25-inch TV's were mounted above the bowler's lane that visually displayed frame-by-frame scoring of the participants for each of the games played.

For those new to bowling, the highest score a player can obtain is 300 points in 10 frames of bowling, but only the very best players ever hit the perfect game. At the very least, 10 consecutive strikes, which means knocking down all ten standing pins with one roll, is needed to obtain the perfect score.

One of the highly skilled participants was Alvin Buster, a regular, who was there with his wife Erin, and

new baby boy Leviticus. He and his wife had entered to play in this bowling tournament event for all of the three days.

Buster was bowling a 204 with at least three strikes in a row, when he said, "two hundred-seventy nine was my highest game."

"I bowl in all these tournaments," he added. "The highest average wins the big cash prize."

Buster's unusual delivery can be described as hi-octane and full velocity. When the ball is thrown from a high arc in the air and forcefully drops down hard with a fast spin and a loud thud, it races down the alley and finally explodes upon making contact with the pins. This resulted in a loud deafening roar as the pins went flying in every direction from this hi-power roller.

Buster finished with another strike, as a big smile crossed his face giving his teammates and friends generous hi-five knuckles and a terrific average to contend with. Sometimes that's all it takes to win these games. Congratulations to all the participants and big winner's, hope everyone had fun and enjoyed the great holiday weekend festivities.

Osceola

Continued from page 1

According to DeWitt, these custom sticks are made out of the most exotic woods known to man and can take more than 50 hours to finish. The inlaid design used can be cut to measure down to 1/1000 of an inch, then the cues are hand rubbed for up to eight hours to get that luster shiny, slick look.

On display next to him were a dozen or so exotic custom cues that he had finished and was for sale. This grand cue master continues to tour the country bringing his custom cue sticks to pool trade shows and tournaments held around the country by professional national and regional billiard organizations.

In the middle of the spacious air-conditioned gym, Maria Billie and Marcellus Calderon sat at a folding table announcing names and pool table numbers of all the competitors. Some of the names of the winners were established players, while some were brand new to this billiards competition.

Calderon said, "David Billie helped organize part of this annual event; he's the

Congratulations to all the winners who participated in the Eighth Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament

Here is the list of all the events winners:

8-Ball Senior Men: 1. Jimmy Bert; 2. Russell Osceola; 3. David Cypress; 4. Joe Billie Jr.; 5. Ronnie Doctor.

8-Ball Senior Women: 1. Laura Clay; 2. Jane Doctor; 3. Louise Osceola; 4.



Felix DoBosz

Michelle Billie prepares to make her shot during the 8th Annual Candy Osceola Pool Tournament.

Annie Jumper; 5. Jennie Johns.

8-Ball Youth Boys: 1. Josh Garza; 2. Kendrick Osceola; 3. Jerome Davis; 4. Michael Doctor; 5. Tommie Benson.

8-Ball Youth Girls: 1. Mela Billie; 2. JoJo Osceola; 3. Nicole Osceola; 4. Erica Mata; 5. Krystle Young.

8-Ball Women's: 1. Phalyn Osceola; 2. Juanita Osceola; 3. Carlene Osceola; 4. Vivian Osceola 5. Michelle Billie.

8-Ball Men's: 1. David Cypress; 2. Daniel Gopher; 3. Woody Wilson; 4. Charles Osceola; 5.

Raymond Garza.

Senior Scotch Doubles: 1. Ronnie Doctor and Mabel Osceola; 2. Juanita Osceola and Russell Osceola; 3. Annie Jumper and Joe Billie; 4. Keeno King and Betty Osceola; 5. Laura Clay and David Cypress.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Derrick Gopher and Phalyn Osceola; 2. Connie William and Daniel Gopher; 3. Yvette Jumper and Robin Buster; 4. Linda Jones and Woody Wilson; 5. Virginia Billie and Raymond Garza.

Open Men's 9-Ball: 1. Che Mrvos; 2. Steven Nevens; 3. David Cypress; 4. Bronson Hill; 5. Raymond Garza.

Open Women's 9-Ball: 1. Crissy Wiley; 2. Virginia Billie; 3. Jackie Thompson; 4. Phalyn Osceola; 5. Jaclyn Deck.



Felix DoBosz

Raymond Garza sets up for a winning shot at the Candy Osceola Pool Tournament.

athletic director of the Immokalee recreation department."

Max Osceola Jr., Hollywood Council Representative and David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative, also sponsored this memorial event.



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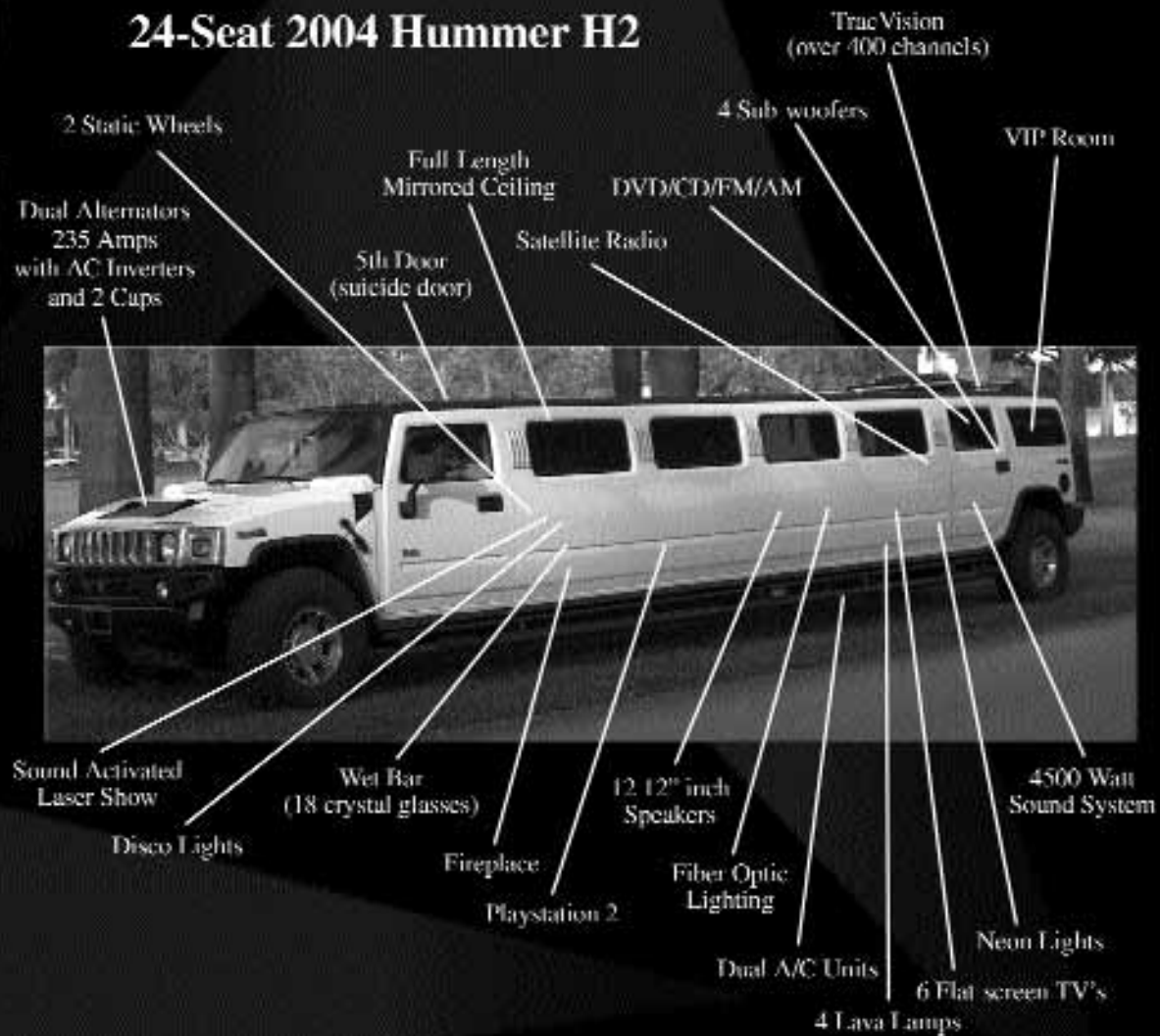
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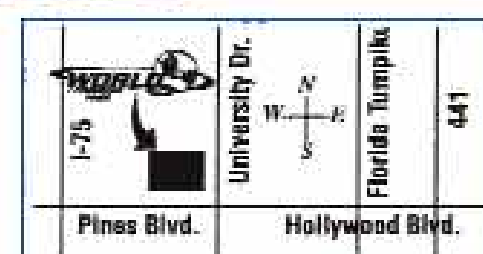
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- Carpel Tunnel Surgery
- Fractures and Sprains
- Flat Feet
- In Grown Toenail (Permanent Correction)
- Joint Replacement Surgery

Announcements ❖ Ahaaheeke ❖ Nak-ohkērkēcetv

Happy Birthday



We would also like to wish our son, **Christopher Olivarez**, born on April 18, a **happy belated birthday** as well. You're getting to be a big boy now! We love you!

Congratulations to you for a job well done with your school grades. You've come a long way and we are proud of you. You can be anything you want to be. Just keep up the good work and keep doing your homework. We love you!

Mom Claudia, Dad Joe, and baby sister Caitlyn Olivarez



We would like to wish our baby girl **Caitlyn Olivarez** a **happy belated birthday**. We were blessed that you have been given to us on April 10, 2003. You have brought so much joy to us.

We love you; you're our angel!
Mom Claudia, Dad Joe, and big brother Christopher Olivarez



Special birthday wishes going out to Miss **Shelli Mae Osceola** who will be turning 12 on June 14.

Our little girl heading towards becoming a young lady, we are very proud of you and hope your day will definitely be the grandest.

Love and kisses from,
Grandma (Virginia), Eddie, Victor, Jesse, Jewel, Valerie and Dad (Vinson)



May 25 was **Iretta Tiger's** special day. **Happy belated birthday!** May you live all the days of your life...

Sincerely,
The communications department staff



Birthday wishes to our mom and grandma Virginia M. Mitchell born on June 11.

Oh my goodness; how old does that make you now? Nevertheless, you are well appreciated every time we need something, someone to talk to or just to hang out with. You're so funny at times, when we least expect it.

All our love to you Mom and Grandma may we share more of these times for many years to come.

Love forever,
Vinson, Valerie, Jesse, Victor, Shelli and Jewel Alice.

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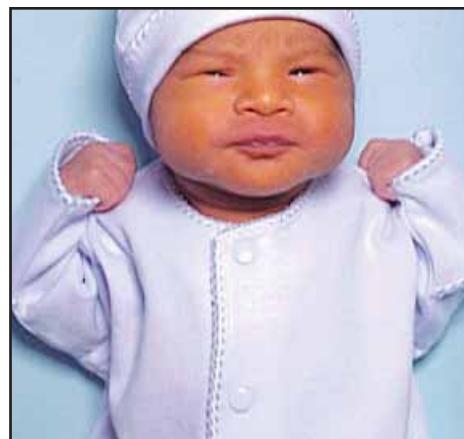
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New Kids



Our beloved daughter **Arianna Judybill Osceola**, was born March 9, 2004 at 9:29 a.m., weighing 6 pounds and 2 ounces, and 18 inches long. Thanks to thoughts that came to the baby shower.

Parents: **Gerret W. Osceola and Rosa M. Osceola**



Memphis Kellen Billie
Born: March 29, 2004
Time: 11:18 p.m.

Weight 5 pounds, 11 ounces
Length: 19 inches
Proud parents: **Elaine Osceola and Duane Billie**

Sibling: Big sister **Lexi Osceola**

Notice

The Yechaw Road and bridge (no. 2) project will begin on Monday May 17. Work will involve removal of bridge no. 1 in order to replace it with culverts allowing passage of construction vehicles.

Be aware that there will be no passage across the first bridge on the main tram grade for the week of May 17-

21. Access to the ceremonial site may be possible through alternate routes depending upon the type of vehicle used.

Further questions concerning the project schedule may be directed to the water resource management department at (954) 967-3402.

Graduates



Trevor Gordon Thomas

Thanks for the memories these past four and a half years; the T-ball and soccer games and everything else. You will always be my little man, no matter how big and strong you get. I hope that your first day of "big school" in the fall is the greatest day of your life.

We are proud of you.
Congratulations on your pre-school graduation on May 26, 2004.

We love you,
Uncle Koty, Aunt Perrie and Hyatt Ringo Star, too.



To our little graduate, **Richard Primeaux** Now you'll be going to the "big school." We are so proud of you.

Love,
Your proud parents and grandparents.



Trina Marie Bowers: Class of 2004

Congratulations to **Trina Bowers** from the Brighton Reservation, who graduated from the First Indian Baptist Academy on May 27. Trina is the daughter of Marvin and Theresa Bowers, granddaughter of Wonder and Mary Johns of the Brighton and granddaughter of Elsie Bowers of the Hollywood Reservation.

Trina is the first tribal citizen to graduate from the First Indian Baptist Academy, but the second to graduate from the academy. She plans to work the summer as a lifeguard, and then go back to school to become a massage therapist or physical therapist.

Congratulations Trina on all your accomplishments and with more to come. And remember to always keep the faith.

Happy Father's Day

Happy Father's Day to Joshua Austin. Even though baby Rick isn't yours, you have been the greatest father ever and we are truly blessed.

Love,
Carolee and DarRick Nelson

Happy Father's Day to Ricky Ray Baxley. Daddy, here I sit again; same pain different year. I hope I'm making you proud in some kind of way. I miss you more and more everyday. You are and will always be the greatest. I'll see you one day, until then, may you follow me.

Love your little girl,
Carolee Nelson

Poems

Love Tainted Cries

What, you and me?
On this I'll speak
Those arrows that fly
Straight through spring air
On our own we'll
Have to go there
Hearts don't deserve that
Perhaps cloud skies do
Play, sure, but nothing
Fancy, or spectacular,
For dime-store verse
Fails to captivate,
And dies anyhow
Sweetest dedication
Years so long gone,
Dance upon memories,
Red-golden sky
In winter past,
A sunset, shooting
Starts sparkle while
Knowing sorrow,
So surrender, knowing
Love tainted cries.
—**Elgin Jumper**
May 2004

The River Under the Sun

The river under the sun,
A canoe ripples the water
Through life
We move upriver
What is it that
I hold most important,
What I hold most dear?
The winding river,
My dear children
A life full.
—**Elgin Jumper**
May 2004

A Tear Stained Cheek

The sands of time they tumble
Into an empty mind they fall
Corruption starts to set in
That lives within these walls...
Questions come up unanswered
From your past of yesterday's tears
Fall from eyes, from unseen pain
As the years start to set in...
Laughter invades this dungeon
The smell of death never fades
A smile you try to remember
Turns to night and day...
You fight life's wicked demons
As they grow stronger with each new day
You feel yourself getting weak
But you refuse to be their slave...
In a world that's so unfair
As society laughs in your face
You live each day with hope
As you search for your faith...
Last and all alone with tears of regret
Loneliness takes the place of a smile
That a face will soon forget
—**Lyle Vandell Billie**
Panther Clan

A Timeless Death at the Hands of Time

Sitting here in my coffin watching
My days turn to night each day
Takes away the pain but scar remains...
I sit here searching for answers
For my mistakes yesterday
A good kid with a bad start
Hoping for someone to show him the way...
Too many tears to hide at times
I feel I'm drowning
My pain drifts off but to return to a soul
that's slowly dying...
Shattered dreams and a broken heart
Loneliness and his friend we call crying...
Taking turns to haunt my soul and laugh at me
Because I'm crying
Each day nobody notices a young boy
Lost and looking for the way
Too many questions unanswered
And too many questions not asked...
Searching for love and found a world full of hate
Too many broken promises and not enough faith...
Searching for an understanding
And waiting on my fate
My heart cries out for happiness
As my spirit patiently waits...
Will anyone ever notice me?
Even though I made mistakes?
Too many nights on the wild side
Hoping to awake another day...
My pistol's smoke and cries for help
Are memories you can't let go
Riding on lady luck
As the gangster steals the show...
Cadillac and diamond dreams
But only wake to an empty night
Orange juice and Tanqueray
Chase away the pain that killed the brain...
One more blunt and a line for the nose
Might help ease the pain
But once it's gone and the skies are blue
Will reality accept you for you?
As I sit here in my coffin
Reminiscing and wondering why
My grave of razor wire and fences
Slowly separate my love and hate...
—**Lyle Vandell Billie**
Panther Clan

In Memoriam

In Memory of a Special Friend: Michele Cypress

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, Who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

I still see your face in my dreams,
It hurts, my eyes fill with tears,
My heart fills with pain.
I remember when we met,
you wanted to know all about me.
No matter my problems or what was wrong,
You accepted me and said that we would always be friends.

I remember the smile you gave me when I called you
"My big girl"

It meant so much to me.

I miss you and everything you were to me,

My special friend.

Love,
Anna



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Board Creates New Loan Program

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has created a new monthly advancement loan program for tribal members only. The program will permit tribal members to borrow money and pay it back in full on a month to month basis in the event that a sudden need for funds should arise. Please call Bob Maza at (954) 966-6300, Ext. 1315 for further information.



(L-R) Johnny Jones, Moses Osceola, Sally R. Tommie, Mitchell Cypress, Paul Bowers Sr., Elaine Aguilar, and William Osceola attend the grand opening of the Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness.

Big Cypress Opens the Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness

By Iretta Tiger
BIG CYPRESS — May 20 marked the day for the official opening of the Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness. The trail is located on the Big Cypress reservation just opposite the Big Cypress Family Investment Center.

Susie Kippenberger, utilities department director, hosted the ribbon cutting ceremony. Kippenberger started the event by stating a few facts about the development of the trail. The concept was born in January 2002 by Chairman Mitchell Cypress and his then-secretary Crissie Carter. The design for the trail was created in January 2003.

Chairman Cypress first addressed the audience in Miccosukee and then translated in English.

"It's up to you how you want to live," he said. "It's your choice to get out there and start working out. Everything's here, no excuses."

Kippenberger then presented Chairman Cypress with a plaque and noted the chairman's modesty.

"When we were naming the trail" said Kippenberger "Mitchell [Cypress] didn't want it to be named after him, he wanted the name to honor the Big Cypress seniors."

To honor the seniors, the benches along the trail have small plaques with a senior's name on it. The plaques are located on the back rest of each bench.

Next, Chairman Cypress presented Crissie Carter, now director of Family Services, with a plaque.



Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie (left) enjoys the new trail with fellow walkers.



Chrissie Carter (left) presents a plaque to Brighton Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Kippenberger then introduced the design team and the construction team. Construction for the trail began on April 28, 2003.

Tribal officials were then introduced and presented with plaques.

"This is a wonderful thing for the community and it's wonderful for the chairman to be concerned for the health of the tribe," said President Moses Osceola. "You've got a wonderful opportunity to keep yourself fit, so take advantage of it."

Trail representative William Osceola acknowledged Winifred Tiger and told a story from his youth. During his younger days, Tiger would chase him and his friends out of the woods when they were partying.

"Every time I see her I want to run!" joked Osceola "She's an inspiration for me."

Mike Tiger, Tribal Treasurer, David Nuñez, President of Seminole Designs and builder of the trail, Leah Minnick from Hot Meals, and Connie Whidden, Health Department Director, were all presented with plaques.

Chairman Cypress then personally presented each member of the design team and Susie Kippenberger with plaques.



The beautiful Mitchell Cypress Trail of Fitness in Big Cypress.

"The Texas Tornado" Vivian Villarreal Meets With TheSportsNetwork.com CEO

By Felix DoBosz
HOLLYWOOD — There she was, Vivian Villarreal, the fifth ranked Women's Professional Billiards Association champion in the luxurious ballroom at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on May 25th. A brand new seven-foot billiards table was set up in the front of this grand ballroom for the billiards star to demonstrate her fine skills.

Villarreal picked up her first cue at the tender age of five. She was greatly encouraged by her family, and met her manager/coach Robert "Duffy" Doores when she was 21.

Villarreal has now earned many classic tour titles. Her quick one-two style of play and whirlwind shot-making skills have given Vivian her stormy nickname and make her one of the most exciting players on the classic tour. She is a former WPBA National Champion and Player of the Year. The Seminole Tribe of Florida now sponsors Vivian on her classic tour.

Mickey Charles, CEO of TheSportsNetwork.com, was there to get a special interview for his forum. He shot a game of 8-ball with her as they chit chatted amusingly about how men in general hate to play her because they don't want to get beat by a woman.

She said she uses a cue that weights approximately 19-and-a-quarter ounces, and costs \$25,000 to make.

This exotic wood cue has gold, silver, and ivory inlaid, made by Omega Cues which also makes cues that cost more than \$100,000. Villarreal demonstrated a lot of quick shooting tips for Charles, at one point, commenting to him after a missed shot, "You put a lot of English on it for no reason."

So he replied, "Do I look like Minnesota Fats?"

Vivian answered quickly, "You don't want to



Vivian Villarreal (left) discusses her unique shooting style with TheSportsNetwork.com CEO Mickey Charles.

the air and a big warm generous smile, he answered in amusement, "for [what?]" Everyone in the large room laughed at the funny comment as Villarreal continued walking around the table in her special zone. She kept making these amazing shots that ended when everyone clapped in admiration. She then made an incredibly difficult shot on the 8-ball to finish off CEO Mickey Charles.

A doubles 8-ball game was next between David Cypress and Mickey Charles on one team, and Moses Osceola and Vivian on the other. The amiable banter from the players continued as they took turns shooting on the green felt. Villarreal sank one ball into the pocket, then another, in a constant rhythm, playing fast and lose and scoring the win.

After the game was over, Villarreal sat down to answer a few questions from Mickey Charles and pose for a group photo session with him, Moses Osceola, Max Osceola Jr., David Cypress, William Osceola and O.B. Osceola.

Villarreal moved over to a small round table and picked up a black sharpie and began autographing large and small publicity posters of "The Texas Tornado". This exercise was performed countless times for her loyal fans and admirers who were lucky enough to witness this great performer work the table and the room.

If you haven't seen her play yet, she will be in WPBA Florida Classic tournament competition on Sept 8-12 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.



"The Texas Tornado" autographs promotional posters for fans.

look like Minnesota Fats!"

Everyone in hearing range had a good laugh over that remark. As she circled the table like a hawk, looking for her next shot, she asked David Cypress seated in the front, "Have you been practicing?"

With his arms stretched out and palms up in



(L-R) William Osceola, Moses Osceola, Max Osceola Jr., David Cypress, Vivian Villarreal, Mickey Charles, and O.B. Osceola Jr. at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

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Volume XXV • Number 8

June 11, 2004

Special Section: Graduating Class of 2004

Savannah Huggins Earns Diploma



Adelsa Williams

(L-R) Mitchell Cypress, Savannah Huggins, and William Osceola at Huggins' graduation.

By Adelsa Williams

MIAMI, FL — On Friday May 21, The Miccosukee Indian School held its graduation and awards ceremony at the Miccosukee reservation. Tribal officials, school staff and family members filled up the auditorium at the tribal administration building.

Tribal citizen, Savannah Huggins, Bird clan, was one of the two high school students to graduate this year, besides the rest of the school's elementary and middle school graduates.

The ceremony began with the procession of students, followed by the Miccosukee Pledge, welcoming words from Tom Albano, school principal, and opening remarks by Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress.

Also in attendance from The Seminole Tribe of Florida were Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Trail Liaison William Osceola.

Following the awards ceremony, there was

See HUGGINS, page 20

College Degrees for Seminole Grads

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Seminole Department of Education proudly announces the graduation of Jaime L. Yzaguirre. Yzaguirre attended the High Tech Institute in Orlando, Fla., where she majored in computer networking. She earned her associates in science, and her bachelor of science, along with her occupational license.

Yzaguirre's short-term plans include relocating to Hollywood where she would like to work for the Seminole Tribe. Jaime is proof that furthering her education will not only be beneficial to her, but to her fellow tribal members.

May 7 was a proud day for Seminole tribal citizen Diane Pequeño, who received her associates of science degree in accounting at Edison Community College.

She said that she would like to lead others by example, and added that completing school was difficult, but in the end it paid off.

"After completing high school, I married and raised a family," she said. "When my youngest turned 18, I decided I was too young to sit back and let life pass me by."

"It was time for me to return to school and prepare for a new career," Pequeño added. "After 20 years it was not easy, but I already knew that anything worth having comes with a price. So I hit the books hard, and here I am graduating."

Pequeño plans to take a little time off with her family before perusing her business career.



Bob Knoght

Diane Pequeño received her associate of science degree.



Adelsa Williams

For complete coverage of the Ahfachkee kindergarten class of 2004 graduation ceremony, please see page 20.

Kindergarten and Middle School Graduations at the Community Christian School of LaBelle

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — On Wednesday, May 19, the Community Christian School of LaBelle held its kindergarten graduation and awards night.

The principal and administrator, Mary N. Williams, made the opening remarks and introduced the five member Board of Trustees. A silhouette of each student had been prepared and was presented to each graduate as a present for their parents.

This year's graduating kindergarten class totaled 33 students, of which two are members of the Seminole Tribe community: Chelsey Nicole Ford and Cleofas Trystan Yzaguirre.

The graduation ceremony included Bible awards, perfect attendance pins, rising star trophies, A/B honor roll for the year, trophies for scholastic achievement and diplomas for completion of the course.

Ford received trophies for both the

A/B honor roll and scholastic achievement. Though she is in kindergarten, she is reading at a first grade sixth month level.

Yzaguirre received a trophy for being a straight A student, having achieved a 97 percent average for the year. A second trophy was awarded for scholastic achievement. Yzaguirre is reading at a second grade level in kindergarten.

Both graduates will be entering the first grade in August as accelerated students.

Congratulations to Josie Davis, who has completed another milestone in her education. She has graduated from the eighth grade at the Community Christian School of LaBelle. She received a perfect attendance award for the 2003-2004 school year.

Davis also was given special recognition with the joy award for keeping the class interesting and fun. She not only has a bright future in her regular school courses, but received the A Bible honor for excellence in Bible studies.



Michelle Ford

Chelsey Ford (left) and Trystan Yzaguirre (right) give each other a congratulatory hug.



Emma Johns

The graduates perform their ABC's in Creek.

Brighton Preschool Graduation

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Preschool Graduating Class of 2004 celebrated a milestone in their lives on May 26 at the Brighton Gymnasium. Family and friends gathered together to celebrate this special occasion and to be entertained by the talented young students.

The evening began with the three and four year olds asking the blessing and citing the pledge in the Creek language, followed by dancing and singing the Hokey Pokey and The Rules of The Class Room by the graduating class.

The language staff then had an opportunity to display the progress they have made with the young graduates by having each one of them introduce them-

selves in the Creek language. Following this outstanding performance were the three year olds performing The Days of the Week and Months of the Year for the audience.

Once the performance completed, it was time for the graduation march to finalize the cross-over from pre-k to kindergarten. Each student met with their parents at the beginning of the isle, handed their mother a red rose, and together the family made their way down the aisle. This part of the ceremony was very moving and said a great deal about what is important for a child's future. A productive future must be a group effort and the family must stay involved!

Once the students received their diploma,

See BRIGHTON, page 20

Seminole Hard Rock Hosts High School and Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony

By Adelsa Williams

HOLLYWOOD — The Big Cypress Ahfachkee School eighth and twelfth graders graduated in style this year at their graduation ceremony, held at The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Tuesday June 1.

After a formal dinner, the traditional presentation of colors by the Seminole Color Guard commenced the graduation ceremony.

The ten graduates proceeded into the ballroom, all wearing their white cap and gown, which was adorned with a Seminole colors sash. The audience offered a thunderous applause as each name was called.

Melissa Ritter sang the National Anthem, while Lauren Bowers recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, and Brittany Huff recited the pledge to the Seminole flag. Reverend Johnny Shomo did the invocation.

Keeno King, master of ceremonies, shared a few words with the audience before his presentations.

"We're thankful that our kids are moving on to higher grades," he said, "It is our hope and

See AHFACHKEE, page 20



Nery Mejicano

Dayra Koenes (right) waits patiently for her diploma.

2004 Big Cypress Preschool Graduation

By Nery Mejicano

BIG CYPRESS — On Tuesday May 25, the Big Cypress preschool department celebrated the graduation of six students. The graduation ceremonies took place at the Big Cypress youth center, where students, parents, teachers and other guests were treated to a well rehearsed show of talent by all the preschool students.

The ceremonies started by a prayer given by Reverend Charles Hummingbird. The master of ceremonies was Tommy Doud, Disability Services Coordinator for the Hollywood preschool department, who did an extraordinary job. The children led the audience in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag in Miccosukee.

Following was a class presentation, where the young graduates sang several songs in

See BIG CYPRESS, page 20

Video Highlights Preschool Graduation

By Michael Kelly

HOLLYWOOD — A touching video showcased the 2004 Hollywood preschool graduation, held on May 28, at the main tribal auditorium in Hollywood. The 16 students recited the Seminole and U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a performance of "As We Go On," the theme of this year's graduation.

The stage was vividly decorated with large flowers. Rosemary Peterson, who teaches the four-year-olds, created the flowers out of colored crepe paper. Without question, the cutest flowers on stage were Kyler Bell, Howie Drake, Mason Micco,

See HOLLYWOOD, page 19



Michael Kelly

Ashely Osceola wants to be Miss Seminole when she grows up.

Immokalee Child Care Center

By Judy Weeks and Shiela Aguilar

IMMOKALEE — The 2004 graduating class at Immokalee Child Care Center (ICCC) included Edward Aguilar, son of Edward and Cindy Aguilar, Troy Cantu, son of Sheila Aguilar and Roy Cantu, and Adricia and Leatrice Cummings, the daughters of Leatrice “Beth” Cypress.

Valarie Bostic, executive director, welcomed those in attendance and James Jordan, a Board Member, offered the invocation. Dr. Ruth E. Clark, Ed.d., as the special guest speaker, preceded the march of the graduates. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the graduating class said the school prayer.

Immokalee Seminole Preschool Graduation

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Preschool held its graduation ceremony on Thursday evening, May 27, at the Immokalee Community Center.

The Preschool Center Manager, Michelle Ford, welcomed everyone and expressed how much she had enjoyed the school year. Alma Johns offered the invocation. Thommy Doud of Hollywood spoke to the audience and graduates, expressing his pride in them. Preschool Director Leona Tommie Williams regretted at being unable to attend.

This year’s graduates consisted of Amber Alvarado, Zephaniah Eugene Jasper Roberts and Makayla Danielle Gonzalez. They marched down the red carpeted isle in their red, black, yellow and white gowns to the music of “Pomp and Circumstance.” They were accompanied by preschool students Cartaya Raquel Billie and Elisah Dakota Lazzie Billie.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the students said the Mantele to the Seminole flag. Then they offered a greeting in the Miccosukee language to their parents, recognized Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Immokalee Council Representative Elaine Aguilar and their school.

Individually, they addressed the gathering in Miccosukee, saying hello, their name, clan, mother, father and teacher.

Appreciation Awards

The highlight of the evening was the musical performance by the graduates. They sang “The ABC Rock” among other selections and concluded with a rousing rendition of “I Believe I Can Fly” complete with the flapping of wings.

Mrs. Bostic presented Special Parent Recognition Awards and dedicated the ceremony to David and Marion Turner, long time ICCC board members and sponsors.

Each of the graduates, dressed in red and white caps and gowns received their diploma to applause. The ceremony concluded with refreshments that included pizza and cake.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole Preschool graduates (L-R) Zephaniah Roberts, Amber Alvarado and Makayla Gonzalez accompanied by Elisah Billie and Cartaya Billie.

were presented to the teaching staff, librarian, culture instructor and cook manager. Without their hard work none of this would have been possible.

Presentation of graduates: Makayla Danielle

Gonzalez enjoyed painting and beadwork. Her favorite color is purple and she would like someday to become a nurse.

Amber Alvarado likes yellow, coloring, painting and playing outside. Her future plans include being a veterinarian.

Zephaniah Eugene Jasper Roberts enjoys soccer, legos and the color green. He plans to own a

motorcycle and become a culture teacher.

Each graduate received a diploma and gifts for their trip to Kindergarten next year: Back Pack, Pencils, Crayons and Writing Paper.

Andy Buster offered the evening dinner prayer to conclude the ceremony. The celebration dinner was catered by Lazano’s and included a wide variety of extraordinary Mexican cuisine. This was followed with a beautiful strawberry and banana filled graduation cake.

Students Get the Message: Education Comes First

By Susan Etxebarria

BRIGHTON — Students at the First Indian Baptist Academy invited Board Representatives David DeHass of Hollywood, Paul Bowers of Big Cypress and Johnny Jones of Brighton to chapel on Monday May 17, to speak to them about the role of the Seminole Tribe’s Board of Directors.

The students got a strong message to get an education. After talking to the students about the many business ventures of the board, including cattle, the rock pit, citrus, sugar cane, the new gas station at Brighton, and other future endeavors, the representatives wanted the students to understand that some day they will be the leaders.

“In a few years it is going to be up to you guys,” said Representative DeHass. “We will need your leadership.”

The tribal representatives pledged to give support to the youth so they can obtain the goals they have set for themselves. “We’re waiting on you,” said DeHass.

“You need to keep your grades up, finish up school, stay the straight line and don’t make foolish decisions.”

It was stressed that the Seminoles have a lot of benefits from the government to help create a strong economy for the tribal members and that it will be up to the youth to make sure the future years are good. It was stressed that with the financial advantages the children have now—more than anytime in the Seminole history—that any one of the kids could grow up to be a doctor, a lawyer, a famous star—if they get their education.



Susan Etxebarria

Board Representatives David D. DeHass, Paul Bowers and Johnny Jones visit Brighton students.

the Trading Post so they can invest in the tribe at the same time.

Representative Bowers pointed out the difference between the Tribal Council and the Tribal Board, but emphasized that both work together for the good of all. He said that leaders of the council and board are very committed to educating the young people.

Pastor Wonder Johns thanked the tribal representatives for their visit to the academy.

“It is really encouraging to see tribal officials come and share with us,” Johns said.

Education is the Key

By Judy Weeks

IMMOKALEE — Hard work, a pleasant personality, integrity and scholastic achievement are paying off for three high school students in the Immokalee Community.

Jonathan Rodriguez, son of Rhonda Holdiness, completed his freshman year at Immokalee High School. Jonathan held an upper percentile grade average which allowed him to participate in sports. Baseball is his game and he has excelled. He earned his varsity letter this past season and will represent the Immokalee High School on the field next year.

Christian Benson, daughter of Dorothy Yzaguirre Benson, has maintained a high scholastic average throughout her school years. She enjoys a place on the honor roll and is a high achiever in several fields. One of her teachers nominated her for the people to people student ambassador program. She has been selected for the European Discovery I.J. Christian will be leaving around June 10 for 21 days in Europe. We look forward to a detailed interview with Christian when she returns.

Lazara Marrero, daughter of Frankie and

Cris Marrero, has been nominated by the teaching staff at Immokalee High School to attend the 2004 congressional student leadership conference. The Board of Directors has selected her in recognition of academic excellence, extracurricular involvement and leadership potential. The conference is being held this summer in Los Angeles, Calif. Lazara will be sharing her experiences with us at a future date.

The Seminole Department of Education and Immokalee Council Representative Elaine Aguilar are sponsoring both girls in order for them to participate in these very rewarding ventures.



Judy Weeks

Jonathon Rodriguez receives his varsity letter.

Howard Madrigal Stays on Track

By Emma Brown

BRIGHTON— Howard Madrigal, AKA Boo, from the Brighton Reservation, is part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Higher Education Scholarship program. Howard attends Indian River Community College in Ft. Pierce and is currently working on a degree in business administration. He has a GPA that is above a 3.0 and a Dean’s list status. This is a great accomplishment since he has

to find time to study when he is not busy being a father to his son Silas.

Madrigal’s family wishes to let them know how proud they are of him. The Education Department also would like to commend Boo on his perseverance and let him know that we are here to support him every step of the way.

Keep up the good work; you are a great example to your community!

Education Program for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

After graduating, her next step is to take the NCLEX, which is the licensure exam issued by the state to then commence practicing her studied skills. She plans to gain enough experience in her field before returning to work for the tribe.

Four years of hard work and determination finally pays off for this sturdy individual.

Congratulations Marina Renee Tigertail-Sanders on your lifetime milestone achievement.

Sanders

Continued from page 1

been her dream.

“I enjoy caring for patients,” she said.

The University of Miami is ranked among the top academic institutions in the Southeast United States and is well known for medicine. It was definitely a culminating experience for Tigertail-Sanders. She is another advocate of the Higher

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Representative Elaine Aguilar Addresses Graduates

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — As the 2003–2004 school year draws to an end, it is time to recognize our students who have reached another milestone in the education process. Immokalee Liaison Elaine Aguilar would like to take this opportunity to address the community members who are moving up the ladder of education. “Unfortunately, it is not possible to recognize each person individually who has been involved in some form of education this past year. I am equally proud of each and every one of you. We often use the slogan ‘The Youth of Today Are the Leaders of Tomorrow’. How true this is! “Their education is the key to the door of tomorrow and that includes not just youth, but all tribal members. Whether you are in school, attending clinics, conferences, reading or talking to others, you are learning. With open minds, we learn something new every day of our lives. At this time, I present to you some of the students who have graduated, moved up to new school levels, or received awards for their efforts.

“Norita Yzaguirre, Immokalee’s Coordinator of Higher Education, is closely monitoring our learning efforts. She keeps a watch over your children’s education, knows what schools they attend, their scholastic achievements, needs for assistance, tutors, scholarships and awards programs. She has been extremely helpful in gathering the information on our graduates and interviewing them. Mrs. Yzaguirre offers us the following words of wisdom.”
“As your education advisor, I would like to share with you something I often tell my own child. When things aren’t going right or become difficult I am frequently told ‘I Can’t’. My reply to this is ‘You are an American. The last four letters of American are I CAN not I CAN’T.’ If we keep this in mind and try our best, we will go a long way toward achieving our goals. You may not always succeed; sometimes it’s necessary to change our course to find a better direction or solution!”
“It is never too late to complete your education or further it. If you need assistance, you can make an appointment to see me in my office at the library at (239) 657-3400,” she said.

Hollywood

Continued from page 17

Audriahna Sirota, Corbin Billie, and Richard Primeaux, who adorned flower costumes. While standing in place, the other children ran in a figure eight around them, in precise fashion. Standing on the brightly lit stage, each child came out dressed in what they want to be when they grow up. There were doctors (Cecil Johns), policemen (Kalani Bankston), astronauts (Samual Sanchez), teachers (Brent Frank), a Seminole princess (Ashley Osceola), and a future chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Kyreil Josh). The three-year-old class took the stage and sang “Chehan-Taa-Mo,” and “The Traveling Song” in their native Miccosukee language. Herbert Jim,



Dentist Amya Baxley (left), and Policeman Kalani Bankston (right).



Hollywood Preschool graduates received their diplomas.

Seminole preschool language instructor, helped the children with their singing. During the graduating event, a video presentation showcased the preschoolers from when they were just toddlers to the present. You could here parents and teachers commenting on how fast the children had grown, and that it seemed like only yesterday that they were being pushed in strollers. President Moses Osceola and Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola Jr. were on stage to shake hands with the young graduates and present their diplomas. After each child received their diploma, they whispered, or on a few occasions, yelled Sho-Na-Bish-Sha. The audience responded with a loud applause. Carol Crenshaw, center manager for the Hollywood preschool department, said that stressing the children’s native

language at the graduation is extremely important. “It’s important that the children learn their native language at an early age,” said Crenshaw. After the ceremony, family members, parents, children and preschool staff employees enjoyed lunch at the auditorium lobby. Here is a list of the graduating class of 2004: Kalani Walter Bankston, Amya Elle Baxley, Kyler Robert Dakota Bell, Corbin Rolan Billie, Mariah Bowers, Brent Kyle Frank, Kyreil Kaa Josh, Arek Dalton Jumper, Kiauna Cedijah Martin, Kiar Ivy Mowatt, Ashely Taylor, Richard Joseph Primeaux, Daniel Rodriguez Jr., Michael Randolph Rosato, Audriahna Dorothy Sirota, Raylene Chanel Stewart.

Middle School Here We Come

By Judy Weeks
IMMOKALEE — All of the elementary schools in the Immokalee area held their commencement ceremonies during the last week of May. Our tribal community had seven fifth grade students who will climb up the educational ladder into Middle School in the fall.

Village Oaks Elementary School
Star Sanchez, daughter of Tony and Belinda Sanchez, was in the fourth grade this year where she showed outstanding achievement. She received an excellence award in scholastics. We’ll be seeing her in the fifth grade next year. Kendra Frank will continue the journey by entering Immokalee Middle School. She was honored with a Writing Excellence Award for the 5th Grade. Justin Garza and Mauro Perez completed the fifth grade curriculum and successfully passed their SAT exams. They will both attend Immokalee Middle School in the fall. Justin is undecided about his future, but Mauro is an aspiring skateboard champion. Michael Shaefer received an excellence in reading award and was recognized for his participation in the media center sunshine reading program. Mallory Sanchez was honored for her academic achievements with the principal’s grades honors award. In addition, she was awarded



(L-R) Justin Garza, Mauro Perez, Michael Shaefer, Mallory Sanchez, and Kendra Frank graduated from Village Oaks Elementary School.

Each of the three schools involved prepared a delightful program which included opening remarks by the principal, a member of the school board and assistant principal. The students in the graduating classes then entertained the audiences with school songs and selected tunes with educational overtones, such as “Lean on Me,” “Rap of the U.S.A.” and “Proud to Be an American.” The students did a fantastic job. Awards were then presented for most improved student, AR spirit award, outstanding character and individual classroom recognition. Related arts awards included physical education, safety patrol, art, music, media and computer. The Scholars’ club, perfect attendance, principal’s award and presidential award concluded the program. Sabal Palm Elementary School Corey Garcia is the son of Isabel Garza and has completed his elementary school curriculum. He will attend Corkscrew Middle in the fall and has not yet decided on a career. Corkscrew Elementary School Cody Motlow attended Corkscrew Elementary this school year where he participated in the science fair and won an award for being an outstanding classroom helper. In addition, Cody took part in the Seminole 4-H Swine Program and raised the reserve grand champion. He will be attending Corkscrew Middle School in the fall.



Cody Motlow will be heading for Corkscrew Middle School next year.

fastest keyboard in the school for her excellent success in the computer lab. Mallory is looking at a possible career in nursing.

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Brighton

Continued from page 17

Director of Education Louise Gopher, congratulated the graduates and said, “I hope 13 years from now we will see all 16 of these students walking across the stage again receiving their high school diploma.”

Gopher added, “parent involvement never ends,” reiterating the fact that children need a very strong support system from beginning to end.

Brighton Council Representative Roger Smith, also congratulated the seniors and expressed his feelings on how important education is. The evening was a big success and brought a great deal of happiness to many little hearts.

This year’s Parent Teacher Advisory (PTA) officers are President Jason Thomas, Vice President James Tommie, Secretary Cecilia Thomas, and Treasurer Amanda Smith. Without the help of these people, the preschool staff



Director Louise Gopher congratulates a graduate.

and involved parents, graduation ceremonies like this would not be possible.

The Brighton Preschool class of 2004 is: Jermaine Bennett Jr. Jermaine is the four-year-old son of Lacey Garner. Jermaine’s favorite color is blue and his favorite foods are his Grandpa’s ribs and yellow rice. When Jermaine grows up he wants to be a baseball player.

Bethany Billie. Bethany is the four-year-old daughter of Jack and Beverly Billie. Bethany’s favorite color is red and she loves to eat grapes. When Bethany grows up she wants to be a doctor.

Elijah Billie. Elijah is the four-year-old son of Jack and Beverly Billie. Elijah’s favorite color is green and his favorite food is cereal. When Elijah grows up he wants to be a race car driver.

Cyrus Smedley. Cyrus is the five-year-old son of Melissa Kendrick and Sammy Smedley. Cyrus’ favorite color is red and his favorite food is cereal. When Cyrus grows up he wants to be a hunter.

Big Cypress

Continued from page 17

Miccosukee under the artistic direction of Ms. Judy and demonstrated their knowledge of their language by identifying different fruits by their Indian name. The one year old class followed and sang the Bumble Bee song under the direction of Ms. Roslyn, Ms. Vickie and Ms. Cathy.

Not to be upstaged by the little ones, the two-year-old class demonstrated their knowledge of the Miccosukee language by naming objects and animals under the direction of their culture teacher, Mr. Phillip Jumper.

Then came the big event. The graduates marched in to receive their diplomas from Doud. Graduating were the following students: Abiaka Bowers, Annie Cypress Joe, Myron Cypress, Dayra Koenes, Trinity Williams and Ethan Balentine. A great PowerPoint presentation was shown to all present, with a pictorial history of



Trevor Thomas and Rylee Smith are heading to big school.

Crysten Smith. Crysten is the five-year-old daughter of Jamie and Crystal Smith. Crysten’s favorite color is blue and her favorite food is green beans. When Crysten grows up she wants to be a car driver.

Ruby Buster. Ruby is the five-year-old daughter of Jessica Billie and Roderick Buster. Ruby’s favorite color is red and her favorite food is chicken. When Ruby grows up she wants to be rich.

Cheyenne Fish. Cheyenne is the five-year-old daughter of Mike Fish and Michelle Grindler. Cheyenne’s favorite color is green and she likes to eat hot dogs. When Cheyenne grows up she wants to be a teacher, just like her mom.

Marquis Fudge. Marquis is the five-year-old son of Rob and Margaria Fudge. Marquis’s favorite color is green and his favorite food is ravioli. When marquis grows up he wants to be a doctor.

Erik Garcia. Erik is the five-year-old son of Rita Gopher and Wesley Garcia. Erik’s favorite color is green and he likes carrots. When Erik grows up he wants to be a space man.

Logan Ortiz. Logan is the five-year-old son of Jose and Stella Ortiz. Logan’s favorite color is yellow and his favorite food is pizza. When Logan grows up he wants to be a doctor or truck driver.

Isaac Osceola. Isaac is the four-year-old son of Tony and Vanessa Osceola. Isaac’s favorite color is green and his favorite food is chicken nuggets. When Isaac grows up he wants to be a four-wheel driver.

Eric Puente. Eric is the five-year-old son of Eric and Avalon Puente. Eric’s favorite color is green and his favorite food to eat is shrimp. When Eric grows up he wants to be a dirt bike rider.

Diamond Shore. Diamond is the five-year-old daughter of Elton Shore and Farrah Jones. Diamond’s favorite color is red and she likes to eat chicken and macaroni. When Diamond grows up she wants to work on computers.

Jenessa Smith. Jenessa is the five-year-old daughter of Jerry and Jennifer Smith. Jenessa’s favorite color is pink and her favorite food is apples. When Jenessa grows up she wants to go to college.

Rylee Smith. Rylee is the five-year-old son of Dionne Smedley and Mark Smith. Rylee’s favorite color is red and his favorite food is french fries. When Rylee grows up he wants to work with his dad Sammy.

Trevor Thomas. Trevor is the five-year-old son of Gene and Michelle Thomas. Trevor’s favorite color is green and he likes to eat bologna. When Trevor grows up he wants to be a hunter.



All graduating preschoolers received gift bags.

the 2003–2004 preschool year. The graduation ceremony was capped by a great lunch. Congratulation to the graduates.

Huggins

Continued from page 1

a tribute to the twelfth grade graduates, which consisted of a slide show of pictures of the graduates from birth to present, where the songs “A moment like this,” by Kelly Clarkson and “I believe I can fly,” by R. Kelly played in the background.

It was an emotional event. Sounds of tears and cheers could be heard in the audience as Huggins gave her speech. She expressed the joy she felt by completing this long awaited goal.

During her speech, she mentioned how she gained her focus back from when she had dropped out of school four years ago to start a family.

Through the support of her husband, family members, friends and school staff, Huggins has been able to not only raise and keep her family together but also earn her high school diploma.

Addressing her beloved ones, “Thank you



Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress and graduate Adelsa Williams Savannah Huggins.

for the unconditional love you have given me,” said Huggins.

“Education comes from within; you get it by struggle and effort and thought.” —Napoleon Hill

Bowers

Continued from page 1

family has taught me that everything is possible through the hands of God, and my friends have taught me to be trusting and honest.”

She is the only graduating senior this year. But, the academy, now ending its fourth year, is growing steadily as parents begin to realize the tremendous advantages of a private school on the reservation, emphasizing smaller class sizes and individual attention, respect for and emphasis of Seminole traditions and culture, inspiring children to set goals, especially reaching for educational achievements. Trina is one of the early pioneers.

Next year the graduating class will be much larger. During this 2003-2004 school year, enrollment

tripled, and the school had 40 students. Awards were also given to students in all grades for academic excellence, attendance, the Bringing Up Grades, or BUG award, and the Kiwanis Kindness award.

The students given certificates for all A’s -or all A’s and B’s were, as follows: Baxley Ashton, Lois Billie, Paul Billie, Marilee Johns, Matthew De Hass, Taylor Johns, Marilee Johns, Calgary Johns, Nicholas Nix, Robert Parker, Kaley Riley, Jennifer Tommie, and Marshall Tommie.

The ceremony had special meaning for Pastor Wonder Johns. All the students participated in the ceremony by performing before the audience either singing songs or performing skits.

“It is such a pleasure to see all the kids get up and speak,” Johns said. “Go to public schools and see how many Indian kids get up and speak. I get a joy out of this.”

Ahfachkee

Continued from page 17

prayer that one day these kids will become something in the tribe.”

King then introduced Lee Zepeda, Ahfachkee School Principal, who said a few welcoming words and then introduced keynote speaker Mike Tiger, Tribal Treasurer.

Tiger started off by acknowledging families of the graduates and asking them to stand up for recognition. During his speech, Tiger stressed the importance to the young Seminole adults to step up and prepare to take over.

“Life is a bunch of decisions,” said Tiger. “You made a decision to be here to graduate tonight, and for that, we are thankful and proud.”

Mitchell Cypress, Chairman of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, offered welcoming words and thanked everyone for their support. He also addressed the graduating class.

“We’re looking for good leaders,” Cypress said. “You are the one.”

Vice Chairman and President of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Moses Osceola, encour-



Graduates line up with anticipation before the ceremony begins.

so you can come and work for us,” Osceola said. King then introduced last year’s commencement speaker, Max Osceola Jr., Hollywood Council Representative. Osceola spoke briefly of the way things were at the tribe back in the 1950s, when the first Tribal Council went head-to-head with the U.S. government demanding time to educate their youth. Osceola mentioned that as a result of their early struggles, the Ahfachkee School diploma is of great value and should be treasured by every graduate.

“We’re the only school in Hendry County that is accredited by the Southern Association,” said Osceola, “We invest in people, and this is a family investment.”

Elaine Aguilar, Immokalee Council Liaison, also addressed the crowd, speaking in both Miccosukee and English.

“Continue on with your education,” said Aguilar.

Last but not least, Louise Gopher, Director of Education, congratulated the students and the parents.

“Parent involvement is a lifelong thing,” said Gopher.

In closing, King acknowledged the Ahfachkee School staff by asking them to rise, and thanked them for their hard work and effort in educating the students.

The conferring of diplomas followed as Ms. Hager, seventh and eighth grade teacher, handed them to each joyous graduate.

Congratulations to all of the 2004 graduates: Bonnie Billie, Nathan Billie, Tiffany Billie, Alexander Cypress, Dawna Cypress, Robert Cypress, Jr., Benjamin Hernandez, Marliisa Tiger, Trisha Bowers and Naonna Victoria Hernandez.



Marliisa Tiger receiving her certificate from Lee Zepeda.

aged parents to pray for their children as they enter high school. He also shared a few words of encouragement as he humored the students.

“Study hard and get out as soon as you can,

Ahfachkee Kindergarten Graduation

By Adelsa Williams

BIG CYPRESS — On Friday May 28, the Ahfachkee School held a kindergarten graduation ceremony for the kindergarten class of 2004. The ceremony was held at the school’s cafeteria in Big Cypress.

The 11 graduates wore their caps and gowns, eager to receive their certificate. After the procession, the pledge of allegiance and the pledge to the Seminole Flag followed.

The students delighted the audience with two songs, “Today’ a Special Day” and “Super Star.”

Welcoming remarks by Principal Lee Zepeda followed. To conclude the ceremony there were the presentation of awards and diplomas.

Tribal citizen Callie Joe, Panther clan, received the student of the year award. She is the daughter of Vera Herrera and Christopher Joe. Her father sent her a beautiful bouquet of flowers adorned with balloons.

“The students have potential,” kindergarten teacher Bernadette Schyvinch, said. “Every day I learn from them.”

After the ceremony, parents and students posed for portraits done at the site by Photos by Renee, from Clewiston, Fla. A light lunch was also provided for all who attended.

Congratulations to the Ahfachkee kindergarten class of 2004: Christopher Alexander, Arnold Billie, Tyrus Billie, Sierra Bowers, Chancy Curry, Michaela Cypress, Blige Cypress, Kanavis Cypress-Williams, Ethan Hummingbird, Callie Joe and Dalton Koenes.



Tyrus Billie and Principle Lee Zepeda.

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